

The NEWS-
Inyo and Mono **LETTER**

SEPTEMBER

75
CENTS

TV and
the
LeVitt
case
P. 23



Thomas & Shumway

Basking in the glow
of almost certain
re-election

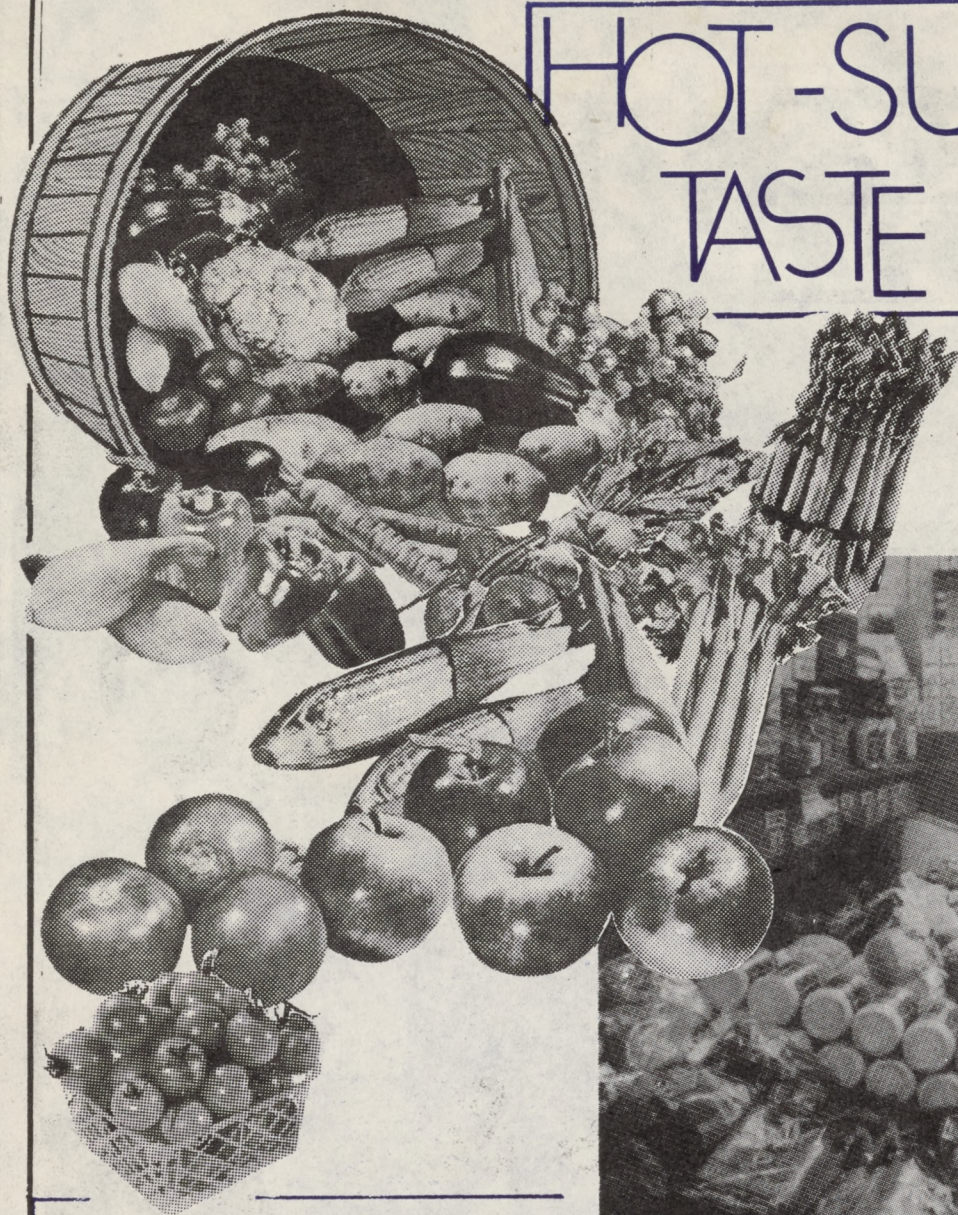
P.15



COUNTIES BEGIN PAINFUL BUDGET CUTS

P.26

HOT-SUMMER TASTE TREAT!



*The summer crop's best!
Delicious and nutritious!*

FIELD-FRESH FLAVOR!

*Fresh, crisp, just-ripe.
Fruits and vegetables
just out of the fields,
hand-selected, then
brought overnight to
our produce counter.*



Come in and see, today!

**Exquisite California &
Imported Wines**

Manor Market

Bishop's finest foods and spirits • Imports • 3100 West Line Street

**THE
WINE
BARREL
DELI**

in this issue:

COVER:

Fairly exuding confidence, the Eastern Sierra's congressional representatives appear against a true-blue background of the Capitol.



A News Alternative Eastern Sierra News Service

The Inyo and Mono News-Letter, formerly The Inyo County News-Letter, is a publication of Eastern Sierra News Service, and it is published at offices located at 536 North Edwards Street in Independence, California.

Telephones: (714) 878-2381 and 878-2582
Mono County: 934-2393

Inyo County staff:
John Heston, editor
Benett Kessler
Patricia Duncan

Mono County:
Wally Charleston
Pat King

Contributing photo and editorial staff:
Peter Pearson, Bishop
W. Paul Payne, Southern Inyo area
Leah Camilucci, Independence, Lone Pine
David Smith, Los Angeles
James R. Smith, New York, Independence
Susan Sorrells, Death Valley area

All correspondence, including readers' letters to the Forum Page, should be mailed to PO Box 531 or 275 Independence, Cal. 93526
Eastern Sierra News Service is owned and operated by John Heston, Benett Kessler and Patricia Duncan
ESNS represents the following news organizations:
ABC Channel 7 Eyewitness News
The Associated Press
Radio KIOQ-FM 100
and other media outlets.



FORUM

4

Letters, lots of 'em, covering everything from Gene Autry to a possible solution to the mosquito problem.

WALLY'S VIEW

12

Wally picks up on the name-calling fight between the counties' publishers. What was it all about? Ad revenues from Mono County.

THE CONGRESSMEN

15

If the West slope labor vote and the feminists don't move over to the Democrats, Shumway and Thomas may have easy sailing.

CHILD TRAGEDY

19

Birth defects thought to have been caused by "Agent Orange." A distressed father, veteran of Viet Nam, releases some tragic photos.

CONDO FIGHT

20

It has come to be West Bishop's favorite pastime - defeating any plans to build condominiums on a littered acreage on Line Street.

LEVITT CASE

23

Some people in Big Pine had been demanding "more news coverage" of the LeVitt molesting case; they finally got it - in spades.

BUDGETS

26

Inyo-Mono supervisors are swinging the axe, and it looks like health services, maybe even a hospital, may be hardest hit.

NOTES FROM B.K.

45

Hell hath no fury like a woman...overcharged for water. And B.K. heaps scorn and ridicule on the heads of the "nincompoops" responsible.

COMPLETE ART,
PHOTO, DESIGN
& COPY SERVICE

EASTERN
SIERRA
PRINTING



Patricia Duncan

summer
blahs?

Give yourself a break!

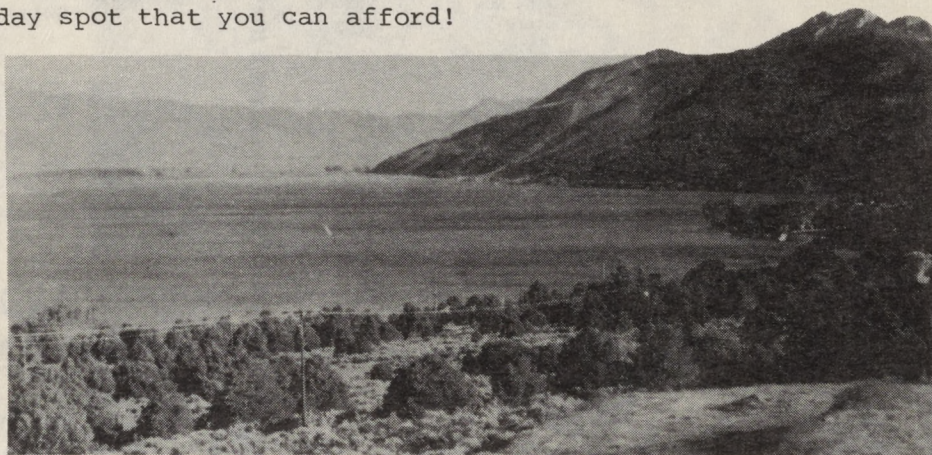


...a nearby fun holiday spot that you can afford!

Whether you've got a week or just a weekend, you'll find us nearby. Escape northward!, right up Highway 395, not much more than a half-a-tank away from Inyo and Mono Counties. A beautiful drive through cool mountains and green valleys. Once here, you'll be greeted by friendly folks, breathtaking scenery. A shimmering, clear lake awaits you. Along with excellent dining, inexpensive accommodations and Nevada-style entertainments, you'll find swimming, boating, fishing, water-skiing - just what you need for a break to escape the blahs. Refresh yourself! Give yourself a break...at a nearby fun holiday spot that you can afford!

Fun for everybody;
Bring the family!

Arrive in time
for our famous
Friday seafood buffet!



Want to hear
more about us?
Call (702) 266-3339

Topaz **LODGE**

Highway 395 at Topaz Lake

**YOUR ONLY LOCALLY-
OWNED OFFICE IN
SOUTHERN INYO...
SERVING SOUTHERN INYO**

SOUTHERN INYO BEST-BUY BARGAINS:

Pangborn Distr: **SOLD!** Two-bedroom home,
newly painted, large yard with fruit
trees. \$49,900.

Lone Pine: Neat two-bedroom house with
apartment. Both with fireplaces. Well
cared-for yard. \$72,000.

...And a lot more! Call today....

Call 876-4121

DOROTHY BONNEFIN, owner - broker

Pat Roberts, Lynne Kaunert,
associates



We're Here For You.

310 so. main street, suite 108

lone pine, california 93545

876-4121

CUSTOM UPHOLSTERY
Quality Craftsmanship Moderately Priced

Biggest Selection
of Decorator
Fabrics in
the
Owens Valley



REPAIRS OF ALL KINDS

The hand of a professional is never more apparent than in
a well-upholstered chair.

• Free Estimates • Free Pickup & Delivery



Serving Owens Valley Since 1950

*Fendon Furniture &
Upholstery Company*

175
E.
PINE
Ph. 873-4698
BISHOP

Member Bishop & Mammoth Chamber of Commerce

ADULT MUSIC

INFORMATION

NEW, EXPANDED COVERAGE OF

LOCAL NEWS
8 am, noon, 5pm

MUTUAL

**NETWORK
NEWS
EVERY HOUR**

Hear it on

KNYO AM
Radio 600

FORUM your view



The News-Letter welcomes readers' letters and comments relevant to public issues. Letters should be brief and concisely stated. The editors remind readers that publication of a letter does not necessarily imply either the editor's agreement with its content, or its accuracy. Address letters to PO Box 531, Independence, California 93526.

John Heston, editor

"BREETLE": ALIVE AND UNWELL, SKULKING SOMEWHERE IN INDEPENDENCE?

Who is David Breetle? Where is David Breetle?

In reply to the 'Letter to the Editor' (July 1980 issue) concerning the question of residency as it pertains to the Herring candidacy, please be advised of the following:

The election laws of this county are very explicit. (Pg. 27 Section 10; Inyo County Candidates Guide; Section 25041 Government Code - "Shall reside in the district during his incumbency.")

If elected, the candidate must reside in the district to which he is elected, from the first day that he takes office until the day he leaves that office. My apartment on Shahr has been habitable for over 2½ years. I have paid taxes here since 1965. The 5th district is my home.

The public should be made aware that, at first, I was not able to locate the author of the so-called 'Herring' criticism. He identified himself as one David Breetle of Independence, Cal.

Since I have passed myself off as an investigator, I decided to get to work. My inquiries led to but one conclusion. There is NO David Breetle!

This person is unknown to the Independence post office. He is not registered to vote in Inyo County and was not registered to vote in the June 3rd primary. He is not known to local law enforcement (under the given name), nor to Independence merchants. Oldtimers have never heard of him. No phone listing - past or present. No unlisted phone listing. Local news media does not recognize the name. Additional undisclosed sources were also consulted - to no avail.

A lesson is to be learned here. A person who hides behind an alias usually has much to hide. People who are dishonest tend to accuse others of dishonesty. People without moral control often accuse others of immorality.

When you commit yourself to a candidacy you subject yourself to slings and arrows. But let them be honest and from honest people.

Who is David Breetle? I have now learned who he actually is. This version is known to local

law enforcement. His history shows a modus operandi of revenge seeking. He lives in an anti-social world of rejection and loneliness.

Where is David Breetle? I'm sorry to report that he does live in Independence. He goes by another name(s).

May I suggest that, in the future, this publication verify the credibility and home address of letter contributors before printing. After all, that's what this outcry was all about, wasn't it? This will serve to make a free press free to all.

Please be aware of just what a 'David Breetle' is.

I am Curtis Herring. I am very proud of my name and I do so sign it here.

Curtis Herring

(Editor's note: As Mr. Herring suggests, a free press - our's at least - is truly "free to all," even to a Breetle. And admittedly, the editor swallowed the Breetle gambit with all the carefree savoir faire of a Socrates downing Hemlock, albeit with a grain of salt. But we would duly note that if a letter-writer chooses to hide behind a nom de plume, skulking somewhere there like an invisible mote in the public eye, then the problem of fear falls to the writer, not to News-Letter. "Breetle," so far as we know, may well be as phoney as a Reagan platform; frankly we didn't check, because even a Breetle, by any name, is deserving of a public hearing. News-Letter is very well aware that Mr. Herring's candidacy was legal and even ethical - pure as the driven snow falling on Vestal Virgins. But News-Letter often affords dissenters their say, whether we agree or not. News-Letter does agree with Mr. Herring's apt statement that "A person who hides behind an alias has much to hide." We can only sigh, "So be it," else the worlds of ideas and of dissent would be ruthlessly overwhelmed by the more secure and more powerful "establishment" and its self-assured certitude. We assume that coming as it did after the election, the "Breetle" letter did in no way harm Mr. Herring's candidacy, but merely articulated or questioned publicly much that had been only whispered, previously.)

FACE IT FOLKS, WE JUST CAN'T PLEASE AN AUTRY FAN, EVEN WITH FREE PLUGS

Dear B.K.

I was shocked at your unwarranted attack and appearingly unfair critique of Gene Autry!

As noted in the current issue, apparently your musical tastes are rather limited, but whether you care personally for his style or not is purely academic; among the youth of our nation in the 30's and 40's he was a hero. And although I'm not old enough to remember him, my research over the past seven years has revealed him to be anything but an attention seeker, most especially since it was Mayor Bradley who proclaimed "Gene Autry Week" in Los Angeles, commemorating his 50th Anniversary in entertainment, another point you conveniently (?) forgot to mention.

Even if he owns boring ball games and a mediocre TV station, I hardly view this as a form of narcissism. Part of today's city-oriented youth problems can be attributed to a lack of such "heroes".

Notwithstanding, the Gene Autry of today can in no way be compared to the Gene Autry of a golden age. If you must, criticize the man for what he is, not what he was.

Yours for a better understanding,

Larry Blodget
Independence, CA

(Editor's note: News-Letter considers itself a "local" publication centering on "local" affairs, and B.K. would ne'er turn Mr. Autry a free mention were it not for the fact that Autry afflicts much of Southern Inyo with his Channel 5 programming - which recently included a self-aggrandizing program fraudulently claiming that Mr. Autry is some kind of national "hero." But as long as Reader Blodget has a right to the columns of News-Letter, much as any other citizen, we must gratuitously suffer Mr. Autry still more undeserved free advertising. Alright then, let's do him real justice:

True, B.K.'s musical and theatrical tastes are "limited" - in the same sense that she "limits" her tastes in many other things: B.K. prefers, for instance, the company of sages to that of numbskulls. She pre-

fers Bach to Autry and his ilk. In dining, she prefers Perrino's to McDonald's, all a matter of "limited" tasteful discrimination.

Mr. Blodget says that he is "shocked."

Ye Gods! One might s'pose that B.K.'s negative reference to Autry's "talent" had loosened the very screws of the universe, and that it may come crashing down instanter! She accepts full responsibility for the calamity, and the editor, a responsible man when it comes to universal issues, feels compelled to explain:

First, B.K.'s "attack" was not upon Mr. Autry as person and private citizen. It was on his seldom talent. The truth is that in B.K.'s (and the editor's) view, Autry is not worth a free mention here were it not for the fact that television might be better utilized toward the uplift of the public consciousness rather than to its downgrading. News-Letter looks at Autry either as amateur actor or public issue in much the same way that it perceives empty space - as nothing. Zero. Zilch. The cube root of a vacuum. Were all of Mr. Autry's "cowboy" performances turned inside out they might have had some value as fence-post holes.

The editor himself was a "youth of our nation in the 30's and 40's" then living in a small East Texas town in which there was little else to do on a Saturday afternoon but see the sagebrush sagas. In that unhappy boredom which per-

meates East Texas he suffered through two or three Autry "movies" in the vain and unrealized hope that he might discover some relationship between Autry and a real American cowboy which the editor at 9 years old very much admired. But alas, to the image of the American cowboy Autry does something dreadfully awful. And therein lies Autry's great problem in trying to be an "actor," not to mention his recent attempt at becoming, like John Wayne - a hero!

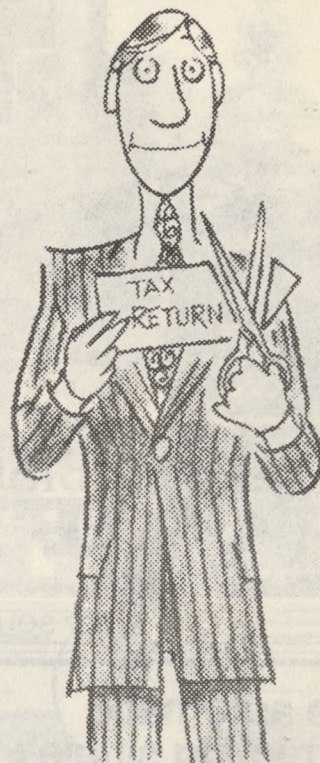
The difference between Autry and a REAL cowboy, or between Autry and a "hero," is an unspanable gap, a gulf or an abyss unimaginable. Example of proof: In one of Autry's less illustrious episodes we see him (or more probably his less fearful double) leap from a saloon roof to land hard astraddle his horse. Now the editor is aware that a real genuine cowboy full well knows that such exaggerated heroics are not only unnecessary but also dangerous, and knows it for the same reason that a real cowboy early becomes aware of the physiological difference between a bull and a steer. In that episode, even the horse was astonished and he fled forthwith, perchance to keep the company of saner men. The wincing audience genuinely expected in the next reel to hear Mr. Autry singing soprano - an improvement perhaps.

All of which brings us to Mr. Autry as a "musician," although in his case we are hard put to use the term. To the giants of

Continued next page

Employers:

New Hiring Plan Cuts Your Taxes!



You can get an income tax credit of up to \$3,300 for each worker hired under new employment tax credit programs for the first year on the job - and up to \$1,800 for the second year. It's easy. No red tape, no complicated forms. Eligible job applicants get vouchers. You exchange the voucher for a Tax Credit Certificate to keep with your tax records. For details, contact:

Bishop Job Service

633 N. Main • Bishop
Call—
873-7184

To your health!

TOP QUALITY MEDICATIONS, ACCURATELY PREPARED

FIRST AID SUPPLIES • COSMETIC • FILM • GREETING CARDS



Owens Valley Drug Co.

(Established Since 1928)

"FINEST PRESCRIPTION SERVICE"

112 South Main Street • Bishop, California 93514

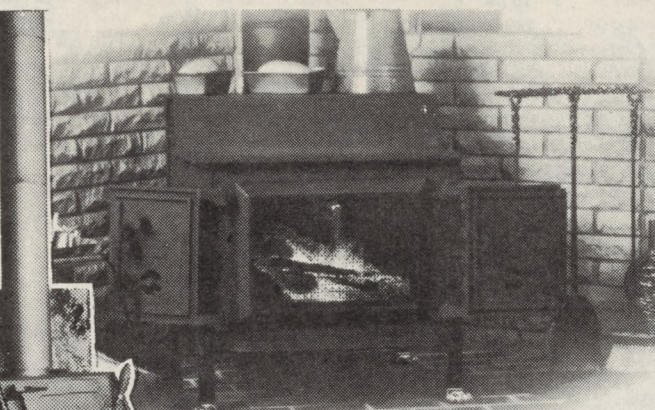
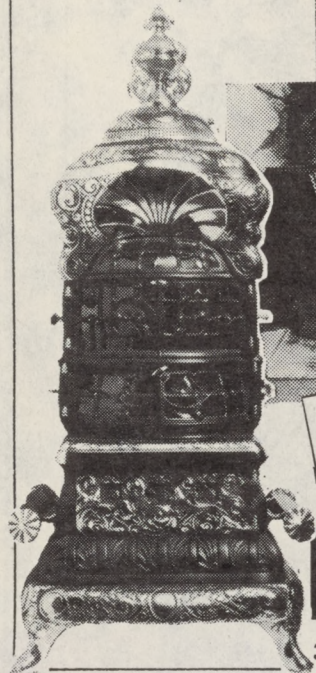
872-2901

9-6 MON-SAT
CLOSED SUN

Your friendly drug store

NOW! Installation for Mobile Homes!

We have the
necessary pipe
and equipment
for mobile home
installation



Today, more and more people
are getting more and more practical
about home heating. And more
cost conscious.

Order now for
seasonal savings!

History repeats itself.
For the better.

**BISHOP
FIRESIDE
& LIGHTING**

307 SOUTH MAIN • BISHOP • 873-7321

real music whose outpourings
well-nigh equal that of the
Hosannahs of the Heavenly Hosts,
Autry is a musical gnat, a
twanger of the git-tawr whose
nasal yawps would rend the hide
off a Texas longhorn, tanned,
polished and ready to be turned
gratefully into a pair of Ox-
fords free of the fear that it
might become a set of Autry
boots. We might here mention
that in comparing Autry music to
a gnat we mean no offense to the
gnat, one of God's honest crea-
tures, and less noisome.

As for Mayor Bradley's pro-
claiming "Gene Autry Week" in
Los Angeles, we can only say
that Bradley can proclaim til
Hades manufactures ice cubes.
How could one take seriously a
proclamation issuing from the
mouth or pen of one whose admin-
istration denies elderly Inyoans
sufficient water to produce a
back-yard garden? Such "procla-
mations" are invariably the dirty
work of fawning PR men seeking a
free ride in the public press
for someone too unknown, too un-
talented, too unproductive, us-
ually, to deserve much more than
an obituary notice.

But let us peacefully retire
from the editorial pedestal.
Suffice it to say that Autry
has his problems, and also his
fans. It must be admitted that
Autry was sufficiently popular

The automatic correcting single element typewriter with dual pitch.

Everything that Adler has
learned about designing
and building quality
typewriters for nearly
80 years is show-
cased in the new
SE-1000CD.

This superior engi-
neered machine has
more advanced features
and refinements than ever before
to make every piece of cor-
respondence, bulletins, reports
typed on it a creative work of art.

At the touch of the Auto-
matic Correcting Key, its remark-
able built-in correction system
takes over and actually lifts
errors off the paper without using
messy liquids or inconvenient
cover-up methods. Then, to provide
additional flexibility, pitch can be
switched from 10 to 12 characters
per inch, and back again. And Adler
has a distinctive selection of inter-
changeable type style cores in both

itches.

The Adler SE-1000CD pro-
duces rapid, effortless typing with
an array of features like
express back spacing, half
spacing, an automatic
paper injector, and six
repeat keys. The newly

designed universal cartridge
ribbon system is inter-
changeable with other
makes of single element
typewriters.

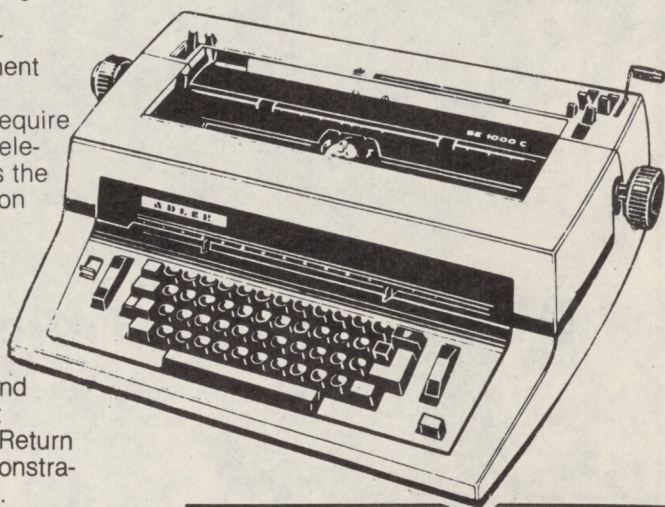
And if you only require
a single pitch, single ele-
ment machine, there's the

Adler SE-1000E, with carbon
ribbon, the SE-1000F, with
fabric ribbon, and the auto-
matic correcting SE-1000C,
with most of the features of
the SE-1000CD.

Increase office produc-
tivity. Choose Adler's latest and
most versatile single element
typewriter—the SE-1000CD. Return
the coupon for an office demonstra-
tion, or additional information.

**ASK FOR ADLER'S COMPLETE LINE OF
QUALITY RIBBONS FOR
ALL MAKES OF TYPEWRITERS.**

THE NEW ADVANCED ADLER SE-1000C



BISHOP TYPEWRITER

OFFICE PRODUCTS DIVISION

TOWN & COUNTRY SHOPPING CENTER

621 W. LINE, BISHOP, CA

(714) 873-5773

and economically adroit to squeeze a television outfit and a baseball team out of a lot of dime boxoffice admissions. In Hollywood anything can be made into "a hero."

Unhappily, we have no doubt offended Mr. Blodget's sensitivities not only in the previous edition but in this also. That being the case, we should with

anguished regret send out for a cowboy hat, a case of dynamite, and a rowboat, immediately upon completion of this issue.

Why?

Well, we would don the cowboy hat in order to respectfully remove it and, sheepishly grinning with hat in hand, beg the forgiveness of both Blodget and Autry. Then we'll take the dy-

namite, blow the printing press to hell and use the rowboat to dump the pieces into the Los Angeles Aqueduct. What, after all, is the use of printing a News-Letter if we cannot toady-up to Gene Autry as he passes himself off as an "American hero."?)

Continued next page

ROBERT (BOB) BREMMER

FOR INYO COUNTY SUPERVISOR
5TH DISTRICT

MY SINCERE THANKS, SOUTHERN INYO...

..FOR YOUR ENTHUSIASTIC SUPPORT OF
MY CANDIDACY IN THE PRIMARY ELECTION.
I WILL APPRECIATE YOUR CONTINUED SUP-
PORT IN THE GENERAL ELECTION.



WHY

SWELTER?

INSTALL ECONOMICAL,
ENERGY-EFFICIENT
COOLING FROM

**SHEET METAL
SPOOR'S**

Complete
service, repair

SWAMP COOLERS - REFRIGERATED AIR

**AIR CONDITIONING
HEATING**

872-7111

GORDON SPOOR
186 WILLOW ST.

BISHOP

STATE LIC. No. 252858

MOSQUITOES: "CONTROL" - OR PROLIFERATION?

Attention: Mr. John Heston,
Editor

Dear Sir:

It has come to my attention that the Inyo County mosquito abatement program has come to an end. Many people I have talked to are glad there will be no more insecticide spraying. But I hear that the phones at the Health Department and the *News-Letter* have been overwhelmed by irate citizens questioning the intelligence of such a move.

But I question the intelligence of their reasoning; it is shrouded in ignorance and gullibility.

Contrary to general belief, insecticides offer neither short nor long range benefits. Actually they're a detriment to the goals toward which their use is intended. And, more important from the human point of view, there has never been and is not now in use a narrow spectrum pesticide. They all are toxic to all life. I will use the poison applied locally as an example and will further explain these points.

I was told by the "Health Department," that Baytex was

used. Baytex is a trade name. Its most common, and shortest, chemical name is O,O-Dimethyl O-(3-methyl-4-(methylthio)phenyl) phosphorothioate. It is in the organophosphate family which was first developed for use as war-time nerve gases. By international agreement their use in war has been limited. During times of peace, however, they are freely used in massive quantities. Most pesticides used today are of this class.

Baytex, like most insecticides, can be absorbed by inhalation, ingestion, and skin absorption. It is converted into more toxic intermediates in the body. It is almost totally insoluble in water.

According to the manufacturer, "(it) may be fatal if swallowed, inhaled, or absorbed through the skin. Rapidly absorbed through the skin...Do not breathe spray mist...Do not apply when weather conditions favor drift of spray. Do not use inside homes or in buildings where food is processed or stored...Do not allow spray to drift onto water supplies... This product is highly toxic to bees exposed to direct treatment or residues on crops... Crops upon which nonregistered applications of BAYTEX are made should be used only for residue analyses or laboratory studies, and not be used for human or animal food. ..."

These warnings and restrictions are only a few of those innumerable in technical data published by the manufacturer, but to me they are the most disturbing. And the most disturbing of these is the last. Since Baytex is only registered for use on forage crops and rice, the implication is that my garden and every other in the fogged areas have been seriously contaminated. As there was no warning of use given, the mist was sucked into the homes of numerous unsuspecting families and splashed on the skin and drawn into their lungs as well as those caught outside.

Several questions arise: It seems impossible to maintain these restrictions and still use the chemical, so why is its use allowed at all? And, more pragmatically, what is it about this substance that makes such warnings necessary?

Besides simply stating that it is toxic some few things are known about it. In large enough amounts (actually almost incomprehensibly small) it can kill a person outright. However, its short-term damage will more likely result in mild poisoning which may manifest in symptoms such as headache, nausea, diar-

GO WITH
NO. 1

...LEADER IN
TWO COUNTIES!

The most complete
local and area
news coverage in the
Eastern High Sierra
at 7:05, 8:05, 12:05 and 5:05
immediately following
UPI world news...

STEREO FM 100

KIOQ/FM
'fm radio one hundred'

rhea, pulmonary edema, respiratory depression. Continuing absorption may cause an influenza-like illness. Strange how the flu seems to have been going around lately.

But these symptoms are merely a signal that the substance has gained entrance to the body where it may be doing damage to last a life-time or more importantly, all future generations. The insecticide or a metabolite may be stored in the adipose tissue and concentrate there until such time as the body has need for the fat stored therein. (Generally the resulting death is listed as something other than pesticide poisoning). There may be liver damage. Or the body's immune system may be damaged leaving one open to chronic illness or allergy. A large single exposure or a gradual buildup of smaller ones thus may make one sensitive to all chemically derived products such as cosmetics, plastics, and your favorite drip-dry shirt. The chemical group to which Baytex belongs is suspected of carcinogenicity (causing cancer); Teratogenicity (causing birth defects, such as those caused by thalidomide); and most dangerous of all, mutagenicity (causing genetic damage resulting in defects passed to all future generations).

"Surely," you might say, "this can't be true or they wouldn't allow it on the market."

This assumes that they (whom-ever they are) have our well-being at heart (a point subject to debate) and that its effects are fully understood and considered safe before use is allowed. Let's just refer to Mobay Chemical Corp.'s own technical data again: "Further work is needed to expand other areas of activity such as the control of insects affecting man." Seems like they've got a lot of work left to do. If they don't know what it does to the bugs what makes you think they know what it does to you. The fact of the matter is that they *don't* and *won't* until the results are in. And, oh yes, you and I are the "guinea pigs".

To me there are no benefits to be derived from its use that would outweigh its risks. Nor would changing the chemical, for they are all essentially the same. But are there any benefits at all? I assume that the hoped-for benefit was the abatement of mosquitoes. Yet anyone with eyes to see and skin to itch is aware that if mosquito population has been effected at all by the spray-

ing it is that they have *increased*. And there is biological evidence to support this. Just as one example, let's take the mosquito and its natural predator, the dragonfly. Granted, with the use of an insecticide you can reduce the current mosquito population, but the predator population is likewise decimated. (Anyone who says that his or any other insecticide will not harm dragonflies or any other particular insect is simply lying). In a matter of days a new generation of mosquitoes will emerge. The dragonflies (which could each consume several hundred of their prey every day) are not there to greet them. It takes two years to make a dragonfly - during which time the larvae grow bigger at the expense of their mosquito counterparts. By the time one generation of dragonflies have matured, the mosquitoes may have genetically evolved an immunity to Baytex requiring yet a stronger poison which will not accomplish its intended goal.

If anything should be eradicated it should be the DWP. Their policy of flood and dry allows the mosquito an ideal breeding ground free from dragonfly larvae and other predators

whose longer life cycles are broken. The natural watercourses of this valley should be allowed to return to nature. The mosquito would still be here but not as an invasion. And there are ways of coping with them short of irradiation which is impossible anyway, or else they would not be a pest.

Jim Smith
Independence

(Editor's note: Mr. Smith, a sometime contributor to News-Letter's photo pages, presents a long-term (and probably superior) approach to mosquito control; the county mosquito control program was laid to rest for lack of money to support it - against the advice of all health agencies.)

GROUNDWATER PUMPING ORDINANCE: "SHOCKING"?

A proposed amendment to the County Code has been placed on the November 4th ballot by the Supervisors. It is a shocking and preposterous effort to regulate and control the extraction of underground water by everyone in the so-called Owens Valley Groundwater Basin (defined only by reference to

Sensuous...
Soft..



...and suddenly like
magic, Big really is
Beautiful!

Arline's full-figure
fashions, sizes 38-52
(tops), 30-46 (bottoms).
Long gowns, beautifully
designed with flowing
cover-ups. Gunslinger-
style pants, co-ordinates.

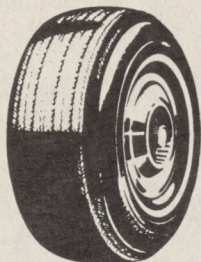
THE EMBARCADERO'S

Ms. Plenti SHOP

FASHIONS: SLEEK LOOKS FOR LARGE
SIZES / FOR A TREAT IN SHOPPING DO COME
IN AND SEE / BROWSE AROUND OUR SPACIOUS SHOW
ROOM, SUITE R, SEVEN-EIGHT-SEVEN NORTH MAIN,
COTTONWOOD PLAZA, BISHOP

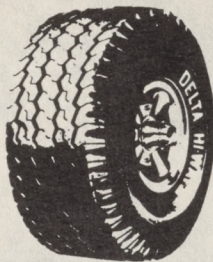
"Delta" DISCOUNT TIRE STORE

— QUALITY —



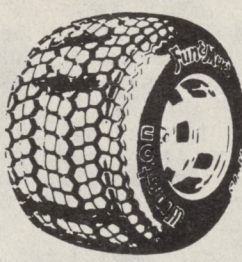
PASSENGER

— PRICE —



TRUCK

— SERVICE —



FUN & MUD

NEW — USED — RECAPPED
—RADIAL TIRE HEADQUARTERS—

ASK ABOUT DELTA'S "ROAD HAZARD & TRUCK GUARANTEE"

• COMPUTERIZED BALANCING

• CUSTOM WHEELS

WESTERN • KEYSTONE • AMERICAN

• WHEEL ALIGNING AVAILABLE

BISHOP STORE

873-7442

115 S. MAIN - BISHOP

BRIDGEPORT STORE

932-7741

MAIN ST. - BRIDGEPORT



a 1975 bulletin of the State Water Resources Board).

We are already over-governed and over-regulated by every governmental agency conceivable - from the Federal government on down to cities.

This measure would require every user of his own water produced from his own land situated in the Basin to obtain an annual permit (25 copies of the application to be filed), and pay an annual fee based upon the number of acre feet extracted.

The proposed ordinance gives permission to the officials of the County Water Department (to be set up), to enter any and all private lands and structures - even your own home - without permission to determine if the ordinance provisions and/or the permit are being violated.

Both criminal and civil penalties are provided for violation, viz: \$150.00, per acre-foot extracted and/or \$500.00, and six months in the County jail or both.

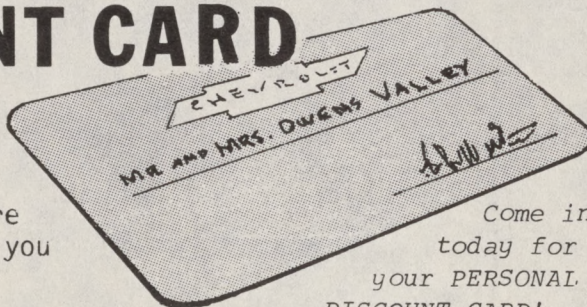
Once the five-man commission and its director are established we shall never get rid of them - and the County is already broke and planning to shut down numerous vital county services!

The measure is supposed to

30% DISCOUNT ON AUTO REPAIRS...

...with your special personal DISCOUNT CARD

Here is an opportunity for real savings on quality auto repairs. If you're an Owens Valley resident, you probably qualify!



Come in today for your PERSONAL DISCOUNT CARD!



Mr. Goodwrench



GM QUALITY
SERVICE / PARTS



MILLER CHEVROLET

1935 MAIN STREET
Telephone 876-5551

LONE PINE

be a method of controlling the Department of Water and Power - a vain hope indeed! Read it; it is 18 double spaced letter-sized pages long, and copies are available at the library and several other public places throughout the county.

The DWP has already stated that they will litigate the matter through the highest courts and will pass on all fees, etc. to its Lessees.

I am certainly no lover of the Department of Water & Power but neither do I wish an ordinance on the books telling me how I can use my land and water and making me pay for the right to do as I please with them.

Vote "NO" on the proposed ordinance relating to the extraction of groundwater in the Basin.

William S. Scully
Bishop

(Editor's note: It is not always that the terms "thinking man" and "lawyer" may be properly linked together. They are not necessarily synonymous. To Reader Scully, however, they equally apply and indeed, in his case, to these may be truthfully added "sincerely concerned citizen." In his communication there is much that makes sense, although News-Letter finds itself at odds with the conclusion. It is our view that, whatever the cost, DWP should be regulated, taxed, sued, and otherwise harrassed until such unlikely time as the DWP leadership overhauls its Owens Valley policy, if in fact it has any other than that of mere greed. "Legality" is not the only question here. Paramount in the issue is the survival of a county, and self-preservation has historically taken precedence over courtroom technicalities and "negotiations" that continue sine bono, ad infinitum, ad nauseam. As in the county's present problem of mosquito abatement, or lack of it, the people will have to pay the price or be bitten. We are not accustomed to taking mosquitoes to court, or "negotiating." We swat them, do we not? Again, a matter of self-preservation. To be fair and beneficial to all concerned, "negotiations" require good faith - and intelligence - on the part of the negotiators. Our own experience has shown that an additional ten thousand years of cultural and anthropological development would be required to raise the instincts of good will and intelligence of the average DWP negotiator up to that of a mangy coyote. We haven't the time to wait, and the cost be damned.)

Memories by mail

Kodak Quality Color Processing is as close as your mailbox. Kodak Mailers are the fast, easy way to have your film processed. Just add your address, a stamp and mail. Stop in for your Kodak Mailers today.

(714) 872-4211



Phillips CAMERA HOUSE

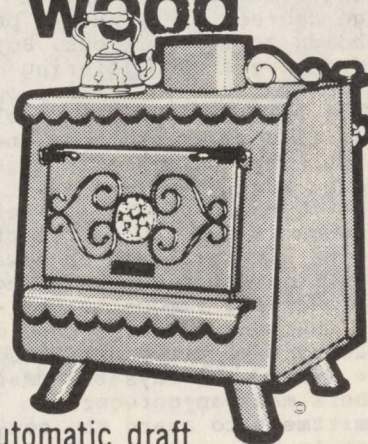
186 No. MAIN • BISHOP



FINALLY...

The wood stove for those who are serious about heating & cooking with wood

- Burns 14 hours on one filling
- Converts to open fireplace instantly
- Burns 1/3 the fuel of many stoves



● Automatic draft

CAL GAS - BISHOP, Inc.

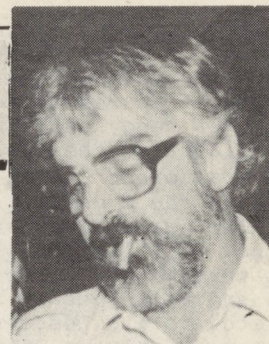
● N. MAIN STREET ————— Call 873-6371

● LONE PINE ————— 876-4420

MAMMOTH-934-6333

Ready to serve your propane needs.

Wally's View



Wally Charleston

WALLY WATCHES THE AD REVENUE BATTLE AS LOCAL PAPERS EXCHANGE INSULTS OVER WHO GETS THE GRAVY / WILL HANSON WIN IN NOVEMBER? WALLY THINKS SO, BUT "B.K." (Page 46) TAKES ANOTHER VIEW / AND WILL MARTY STRELNICK RUN AGAIN?

IT WAS THE FIRST-ROUND BATTLE for two of Mono County's newspapers; the long-established *Mono Herald* and the arrogant newcomer, the *Lakes District Review*. What's at stake is the award by the Board of Supervisors of the Public Notices contract for the next two years to one or the other. The scene took place Tuesday, August 19 at 3:30 PM in a regular board session at Mammoth Lakes Community Center. Cast as players were the four male members of the board, County Counsel Neal Van Winkle and Editors/Publishers Todd Watkins and the Coles, Jay and Carol. Not much of the public was in attendance.

Both editors agree the Public Notices contract is not a big money maker. What remains cautiously unspoken is that the contractor publishing the notices draws a wide and varied readership; that the plum increases subscription and advertising revenues; that, to a large degree, the winner's paper holds political focus. Both papers have shown differing opinions and remain sternly opposite on development and political issues. The bottom line is the loser gets shortchanged by much more than just the price of the advertising. Neither wants it awarded to the other and the slugfest gets underway.

Watkins comes out swinging and takes the immovable position that the contract should be awarded to his paper, the *Mono Herald*. He says the board members made an unrecorded commitment to award the contract to his newspaper for the next two years. The *Lakes District Review* has had its two years, "By agreement", Watkins states. "It's our turn."

The Coles disagree. They've done some fancy investigative research on their competition's past financial dealings with Mono County. They've come loaded down with the research material. They flatly accuse Todd Watkins of overcharging 250% in his billings to the county when the rate standard was set by board resolution. Carol Cole stands to address the board. She says, "I think you've got

to consider the honesty of the vendor you're dealing with."

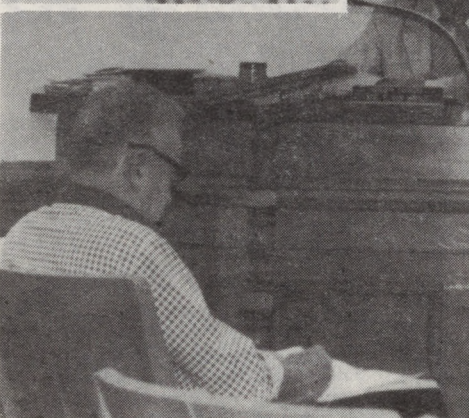
This naturally brought the usually reserved Todd Watkins out of his chair. He uttered "slander" with glaring annoy-



Todd Watkins before the Mono board

Slander over ad rates?

Photos: Wally Charleston



ance to the upstart, and with his carefully chosen dialogue being wrapped into the tapes of the proceedings, spoke of a thirty-five-year impeccable reputation and record of honesty. He was visibly rattled.

Supervisor Bob Stanford, sensing the mudslinging might turn into a good old-fashioned brawl, quickly proposed the contract be put up for bid again. Stanford, like all the supervisors, is a friend of Watkins and respectful of the power of the *Mono Herald*. He ended his motion diplomatically with, "...so we can start from scratch again." He did not

want to go further.

Watkins was having none of it. He wanted to comment further and did so. "I have offered to comply. They (the *Lakes District Review*) accuse me of being a dishonest person..."

Stanford's motion carried - but - to be continued, I'm sure.

THE BOARD IS DANCING differently these days. With the added attraction of Neal Van Winkle - hired to be their legal choreographer - they breeze through the county business with cool efficiency. There are healthier discussions on important issues of community impact and Van Winkle expertly asserts the law without exercising an opinion. He remains coldly impersonal and sticks to the books. He did so on the newspaper contract issue, pointing to the drafted resolution and ignoring the implied, unrecorded commitment to switch off and on with the publishers.

But the issue of the newspaper contract may earmark another dramatic turning point in favor of Mono County citizens and Mono County politics. "Good Ol' Boy" politics in Mono County - at least in Mammoth Lakes - may be drawing its last dying, gasping breath. And it's high time. Board members appear to have discovered that they are not immune to criticism, nor can they be indifferent to Muckrakers. The board members have had their "Hot Scandal" buttons pressed a few times this past fifteen months and resulting investigations have caused them considerable discomfort. They've been forced to reassess themselves and each other and examine their own integrities and administrative abilities. For some, it's been a test of wills. For all - at least at this stage - it appears that conflicts of interest will no longer be tolerated, nor will unfairness in the governmental process be applied in its business.

HANSON IS VOTING AGAIN on airport issues. Sharp abstained on the purchase vote to avoid the appearance of conflict. Soon "The Hanson Problem" will die for lack of public interest. He

will be re-elected to serve his district, defeating John Garner soundly. To John I say, that's just the way it is. Hanson plays "image politics" better. He's used his time well following the breaking stories of his conflicts of interest in the airport mess. As Chairman of the 1980 Board, Hanson has been masterful. His constituents recognize him to be a damn good provider for his district.

Hanson may want to express some gratitude to Dave McCoy of the Mammoth Mountain Ski Area for stepping in and ironing out the differences. Had the airport not been purchased by McCoy, a good possibility exists that the scandal would have escalated and worsened for him before the November elections. As it is, it appears his political life has been spared and it's this reporter's hope that he will continue to make good use of it...

DESPITE CURRENT RUMORS that Marty Strelneck will not seek another term, the Sheriff assures me that he will. Marty has been plagued lately with "unsolved crime" statistics. It seems the unsolved crimes are bugging some taxpayers and they contacted the news media who contacted the top investigators

in his department. One investigator places the blame on the public. "People of Mammoth must realize responsibility," says Al Tronaas, Chief Investigator. "If they genuinely care about solving the crime problems in the county, they have to help us out."

Tronaas also blames: rising unemployment, transients, lack of public interest, not marking valuables with electric pencils, poor economic position, inconsiderate burglars that don't hang around after a job, not calling the "We Tip Hot Line," etc., etc., etc...

It's my guess that Sheriff Strelneck wisely ducked that interview. And does anyone know for sure if Marty Strelneck will run unopposed when the time comes???

I think I hear someone clicking at his heels...

ON MORE SHERIFF'S NEWS, Denny McGrale, Mammoth's likeable narc, is officially retired after fourteen years with the Department. McGrale is best remembered for his adept handling of sensitive narcotics cases involving local youths. On one occasion McGrale "talked" an armed suspect into surrendering his weapon after stating he wouldn't be taken alive. He re-

ceived the department's commendation for that. McGrale will be drafting a letter for publication in the *Mono Herald* and *Lakes District Review* shortly. He wants his friends to know he's no longer a policeman...

DISTRICT ATTORNEY Ed Denton says to look for a guilty plea in the Josephine Pool embezzlement case...And restitution...?

SUPERVISOR-ELECT Paul Johnson of June Lakes hasn't missed a board meeting. He sits quietly - taking notes - in anticipation of taking Joan Green's seat in January. Joan, from what I hear, has been extremely helpful in making the transition come about smoothly. She will no doubt go on to bigger and better things...

MAMMOTH ATTORNEY Mike Ross is somewhat of a showman. He's dangled the news of his yet-to-be-seen petition to move the county seat to Mammoth Lakes and tested a wide audience. Rest easy, Mike. It's everyone's opinion that you'll ink enough signatures to qualify the measure for the 1982 ballot.

My question is: Will Mike Ross also be a name on the bal-

Continued next page

Ponderosa Lanes

Longhorn Room
651 North Main Bishop, CA. 93514



Live
entertainment

Friday and Saturday
in the ballroom,
9pm - 2am

Cocktails

Entrance adjacent to
Ponderosa Lanes

PRIME RIB, STEAK, SEAFOOD, TROUT
and a fine menu selection of gourmet entrees

COMPLETE DINNERS
STARTING AT
\$5.95

Including entree, salad served family style,
baked potato or rice pilaf,
vegetable and loaf of bread

Open Every day
From 5 p.m.

873-6381 Ext. 211 No Reservation Necessary

Legal services



**JAMES MAX
STEWART**

Attorney at Law

Mono and Inyo
Counties

(714) 934-3419

P.O. Box 1098
Mammoth Lakes Calif. 93546

lot, or will he wait until 1984?

SOME FAVORITE PEOPLE of mine (my wife, for one) have asked that I dig into the gray matter between my ears for my choice of supervisor for the District 5 empire of Mammoth Lakes. I'll be writing about it in my next

column...

Talk to you then.

Wally

Supervisor
Sharp
shoots
back



For newspeople covering a session of the Mono Board of Supervisors it was a new experience. Supervisor Don Sharp produced a camera of his own for a shoot-out with the media.

A most unique experience in dining, dancing, lounging.

One of summer's cool pleasures

You know the good life. And there's a place where you can enjoy it even more. We deliver the first-class treatment you've come to expect. Relax in our intimate cocktail lounge. Taste the finest beef.

We can handle your meetings and private parties.

The good life is getting better than ever. Come see for yourself and bring your friends to the beautiful...

PARADISE
RESTAURANT

Closed Mon., Tues.

Bishop, off Highway 395. Turnoff on Lower Rock Creek Road, 12 miles north of Bishop. Phone (714) 387-2370

• LIVE ENTERTAINMENT, WEEKENDS

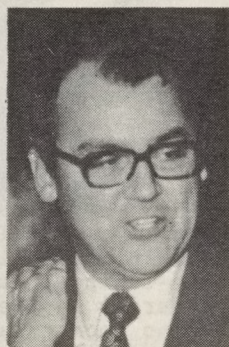


elegant dining
beside a
mountain stream

Like it or not, they're our CONGRESSMEN

(...and very likely to remain so.)

Bill Thomas



Norm Shumway

Nationally syndicated cartoonists do not draw caricatures of them. Walter Cronkite and Barbara Walters do not do in-depth interviews with them. Soap and auto manufacturers (or agricultural corporations and oil companies) do not seek their endorsements. The *Washington Post* neither attacks nor investigates them, and they are not frequent guests at the White House. Brezhnev and Castro are probably unaware (and uncaring) that they exist. They have not the Jordache Look, neither do they hang around Studio 54, and ABSCAM has not caught them with their hands out or their ethics down.

In short, the names Thomas and Shumway are not household words, even among a significant number of the people they represent. But they are still freshmen congressmen laboring under

the banner of the GOP and have yet to make their mark. It is said by their staff people, and by constituents who have sought their personal attentions to this or that matter, that they are hard workers, and they usu-

**ELECTION YEAR,
1980**

ally are to be found on the floor of congress when the roll is called. They show up for work.

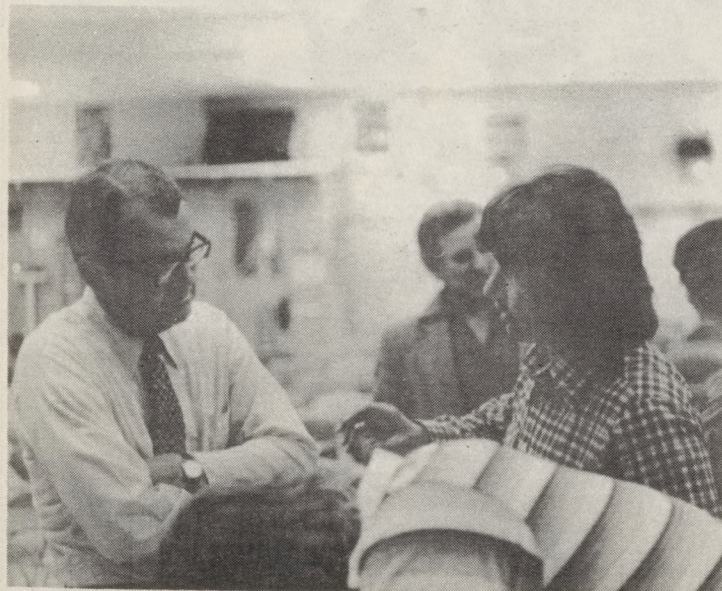
And except for a few close supporters, about all anybody in the Eastern Sierra knows about them is what the ho-hum local press prints from their press releases. Government by hand-out.

Of the two, Shumway appears

to project the highest local image, although Shumway, in Congressional District 14, has the fewest potential votes to gain from the Eastern side of the mountain. Indeed, there have been more than a few complaints, even "official" ones from the Inyo Board of Supervisors, that Thomas (serving an area of some 8000 voters) pays scant attention to Inyo County. Not true!, say his aides.

But their merits, or lack of them, in this congressional election year are only dimly relevant. Unless they make some unimaginably bad political moves, or get arrested for something, which is very unlikely, they are almost certain of re-election.

In listening to their opponents one begins to think that the only "issues" anyone throws against them are their natural



Shumway listens to Mono City constituents



Thomas talks to Inyo supervisors

Republican status quo conservatism, and - here again, they are only a little vulnerable - the claim that Inyo and Mono do not get the congressional representation they are paying for (and for which they voted).

Shumway and Thomas have a lot in common this year: Their constituencies are very similar; their voting record is similar; their party is the same; and they're both challenged by female opponents in the November election. Too, they both made recent visits to their bailiwicks East of the Sierra. In Thomas' case, it was a trip to broaden his profile in this remote corner of his 18th district. The visit was, in part, in response to the Inyo Supervisors who have continued to complain about what they call "an absence of support" from the congressman. Thomas' opponent, Mary "Pat" Timmermans, said she hears the "same complaint" all over the 18th district. Ms. Timmermans' press agent (her son Ray) calls it the "invisible congressman syndrome." He said, "Thomas is visible to those visibly contributing to his campaign." And candidate Timmermans said the only people Thomas is serving are his "big supporters - big oil and big agriculture." Does Thomas care about such slurs? Ms. Timmermans said Thomas "is pretending I don't exist." But she claims she is "even converting Republicans to her side" as she campaigns throughout the district. She's travelled twice to Bishop and says she hopes to make it back to Inyo "at least once more" before the election. She promises a higher visibility in Inyo if she wins the congressional seat. She could use it: Even reporters had to make inquiries to find out Thomas' opponent's name.

Doubting Thomas is betting that she won't score over here. Probably a safe bet. The Bakersfield Republican, 38 years old and formerly a professor of American Government since 1965, also served as a California state assemblyman for four years. He enjoys strong support from agribusiness and big oil. He serves on the Congressional Ethics Committee and, as a committeeman, will soon be more involved with the ABSCAM investigations. Thomas also serves on the Committee on Agriculture, a fact not unknown to his Bakersfield agribusiness constituents. But in Inyo nobody much cares about all that. What Inyo does care about is rampant "wilderness" as perpetrated by the Forest Service and BLM. Thomas recently looked that over. He mounted on horseback and rode into some proposed "wilderness" areas in Southern Inyo. It was reported that Thomas



Shumway pulls for Mono Lake against DWP. Here, at lakeside, he talks to the lake committee's David Gaines.

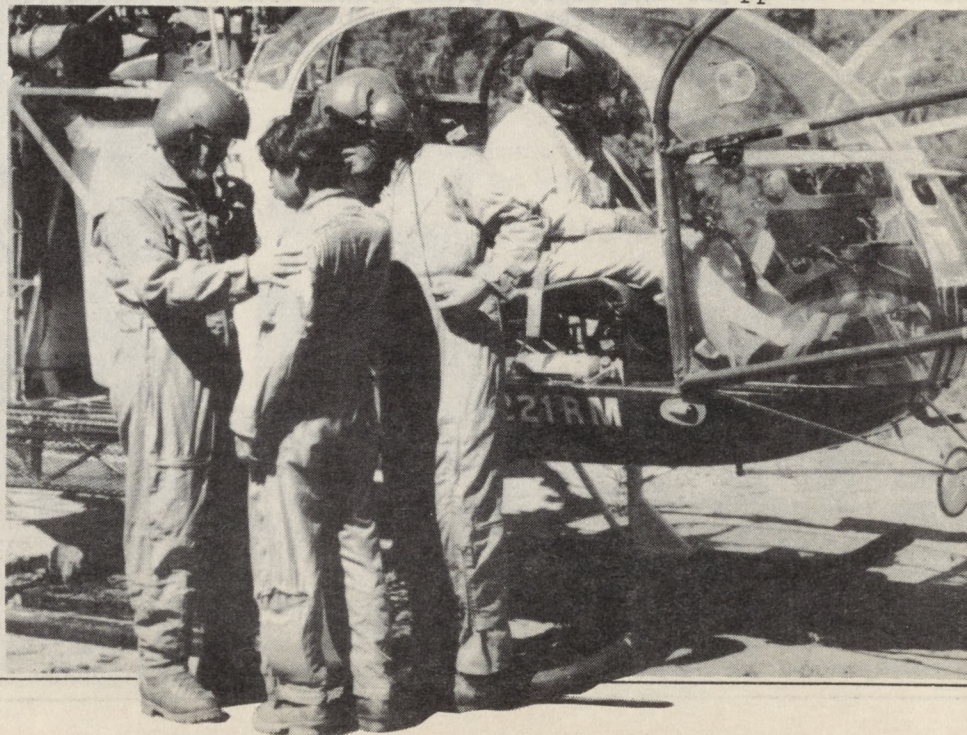
had previously met with the author of the bill, Phil Burton, for "fine-tuning to the wilderness boundaries in the 18th district." Then no sooner had he returned to Washington than the Forest Service RARE II wilderness bill passed, including the Inyo acreage. So much for Thomas' influence. Inyo citizens and supervisors now wonder seriously if Thomas will be of any real help in the next big wilderness push...the land grab by BLM. The Inyo board would also like to wrench a paltry few federal acres away from the government for some small scrap of development and expansion for Inyo. But Thomas holds out few hopes for that; he assures us that it is "difficult moving federal lands out from under the Feds." But he said he will "keep the pressure on." Thanks, Bill.

He did promise help in another Inyo priority matter: Last December, the State Supreme Court pon-

dered a decision on whether or not to place LADWP under the jurisdiction of the Public Utilities Commission. The Court finally decided not to but advised that the legislature could do so. It did not. But at the time of all that legal questioning, a Lone Pine couple - Mr. and Mrs. Burrell Dawson - had written a letter expressing their concern over DWP and PUC, and the incoming metered rates for water in Owens Valley. They were and are not alone in that concern.

The Congressman replied. Of DWP he said, "The DWP has typically been insensitive to the needs and concerns of the residents of Inyo County." Of the Supreme Court, he said, "If the Court should rule against the County of Inyo, legislative action might have to be taken to remedy this injustice." He went on to say, "The visible effects of the DWP's increased ground

Thomas studies "wilderness" with horse and chopper



water pumping in the Owens Valley are deplorable." And still more: "Inyo County cannot afford to tolerate the continuing problems of air pollution and destruction of vegetation. I have contacted the DWP on several occasions regarding this problem, and I have yet to receive a single response. Therefore, I have begun to work closely with the administrators of Inyo County in an attempt to find the most appropriate solutions to this controversy." Good intentions, but that was last December. And now, if one believes the complaints about neglect by Thomas, angrily uttered by County Administrator John Smith and the supervisors, the congressman must have contributed merely another layer of asphalt intentions on the streets of a DWP hell.

Also offering a few words and

not a lot more action on the feds and wilderness is Mono's Congressman Shumway. On RARE II, Shumway said he "would have preferred less acreage in wilderness." But he said that the "administration had wanted" RARE II. Really. He mentioned the pressures of the environmentalists. In Mono, said the Congressman, RARE II grabbed 160,000 acres, no less.

But it is more than wilderness concerns that Thomas and Shumway share. They sometimes work together. According to Thomas' aide, Jim Whittinghill, their meetings are held "quite often." On RARE II, they conferred several times. They both support "filling the Melones Dam," which is of little consequence to Inyo and Mono. But as election time draws near, the election-conscious congressmen may be in less close contact with each other. There are votes to be

got, and in that, it's every man for himself.

Shumway's campaign coordinator, Nancy Buscaglia, said that a "rough hand count" showed Shumway doing well in the race. She said his "name indention" is "good." But neither Shumway nor Thomas has felt the need of a polling service, so who really knows? Asked if Shumway will receive financial help from the Republican party, Ms. Buscaglia said that the party "would help," but she doesn't know how much.

Shumway himself sent *News-Letter* a letter discussing some of his activities with and without Thomas. The congressman said he and Thomas confer "on agriculture issues" and that Thomas has agreed to help him in the issue of "opening Tioga Pass earlier." Shumway, too, as a staunch republican, gets agribusiness support, but his overall support appears to be broader-based.

On his own hook, Shumway says he is concerned with Mono Lake issues, wilderness, energy, and federal land ownership. Good credentials east of the sierra. Months ago, the congressman introduced a bill to implement the "federal role" in the Mono Lake Task Force's "Plan P." On energy, Shumway said, "You may be aware ...that I was a sponsor of the Wind Energy Systems Research, Development and Demonstration Act, which establishes programs to convert wind energy into electricity. The potential for wind power, especially for Mono County, is considerable, and I am pleased to report that at this writing, the bill awaits the President's signature." Good stuff, but the congress is kind of windy, too. Shumway had also asked the Forest Service to "help out financially" in the Mono Sheriff department's protection of the Pickel Meadows Marine Mountain Warfare Training Base north of Bridgeport. Clearly, they're working at it, and maybe another term will give them more clout.

Shumway talked about his family involvement, which appears considerable: He is married and has six children. The congressman says his family interest is the reason for his lack of interest in Washington's after-hours social life. He says frequent and busy trips to the district also preclude any "elaborate 'social life' on this end." As for "Washington social life," one of Thomas' aides, a young and not unattractive man only recently married, said Washington is "not conducive" to married life and family life. "Everybody's on the make, there," he complained. Yep, just as we always suspected.

Continued next page



On recent visit, nursing a swollen jaw due to dental surgery, Shumway talked to News-Letter's Wally Charleston. Below: The congressman at a campaign dinner.



Inset: The Inyo congressman posed with Speaker Tip O'Neil for "swearing-in" photo, soon after election.



Candidates Continued

Shumway supports increased military spending and he vociferously deplores the shape of the American military. But also unhappy with what she calls "America's lack of military preparedness" is Shumway's opponent, Democrat Ann Cernay. Nearly everybody's on the build-up-defense bandwagon these days. She's a Stockton lawyer and considers herself a "viable candidate." She concedes that her "in-house polls" show she's running behind Shumway, but she expects to "close the gap." On that issue of military spending, Ms. Cernay takes a slightly different tack: "I would scrutinize increased military spending." She sees "huge sums of

money spent to make a political statement instead of a good military organization." She says she's looking for a "more efficient and effective way" to use money already spent.

Ms. Cernay claims to have the vote of labor and the endorsement of AFL-CIO. She supports the Equal Rights Amendment, but says ERA is a "break-even" issue... drawing the vote of only "some women." The Republicans are committed to oppose ERA, but Thomas and Shumway don't talk much about that.

And so, two spunky, middle-aged women candidates now take on the freshmen Republicans. Their own futures as politicians may ride in only small degrees on

what Ronald Reagan and Jimmy Carter do in upcoming weeks. Some political observers note that if Reagan, dubbed king of the quip by some, and foot-in-mouth by others, continues to contradict his running mate and himself, he could hurt some GOP candidates. But whether Reagan's ongoing "glitches" would really hurt either Thomas or Shumway is quite another matter. Much of central, and nearly all of Eastern California, has an irritating way of registering as Democrats - and voting as Republicans. And, so far as Inyo-Mono is concerned, this pair seems generally to be saying, if not always doing, the right things.

SEE A GOOD MOVIE..

Sept. 14-16: Wholly Moses and Hot Stuff

Sept. 17-20: Honeysuckle and When Time Ran Out

Sept. 21-23: Fame, in Stereo
Hide in Plain Sight

Sept. 24-30: Final Countdown and Roller Boogie

Oct. 1-7: Xanadu, in Stereo

Oct. 8: The Blue Lagoon

Watch for opening
in mid-November:
The all-new "Twin"
700-seat theater!

BISHOP
THEATRE

SHOWTIME 7 P.M.
PHONE 873-3575

sparkling gifts!



□ □ □ Roy's Jewelry, Gifts & Gourmet Shop

124 NO. MAIN ST.
(714) 872-2211
BISHOP, CA 93514



Gloria Vanderbilt 15. One of our beautiful line of fashion frames.

The artist's eye in fashion frames.

From Gloria Vanderbilt you get the only fashion frames by a famous designer who is also a famous artist. And from us you get the selection and careful fit which is the art to which we are dedicated.

Gloria Vanderbilt
at **OWENS VALLEY**

OPTICAL
(LA MONTANA PLAZA - BEHIND SAFEWAY)
157 SHORT ST. BISHOP 873-7740

"Agent Orange"?

AN ANGRY BISHOP FATHER, VETERAN OF VIET NAM, IS CONVINCED THAT HIS EXPOSURE TO "AGENT ORANGE" CAUSED THE DISFIGUREMENT OF HIS SON

Perhaps only time and extensive research will reveal the "whole truth" about Viet Nam's collection of horrors and damages - moral, social, economic, political, personal - to our own and other countries. Right now, people are wondering about "Agent Orange," a chemical mixture including "Dioxin," and its effects not only on the Vietnamese, but on the American veterans of that conflict. Now, it is suspected, with some evidence to support the suspicion, that dioxin exposure may affect generations to come.

The dioxin idiocy began during the war when the administration "hawks" authorized the use of a "defoliant" to be sprayed over Viet Nam's lush jungles. They held the vague hope that a "defoliation" of thousands of miles of virtual wilderness might possibly reveal enemy troops hiding there. It was an idea neither less nor more insane than many others of the Nixon presidency. Apparently it never occurred to the tacticians that the enemy might quickly remove themselves from the sprayed area, and that our own troops, under orders to hold the line, could not. So much for "better living through chemistry."

Now, many veterans are turning up with strange rashes, vague aches and pains, and a so-far unidentified collection of crippling ailments, nervous disorders and God knows what-all-else.

And birth defects in their children.

Dioxin, according to information recently revealed in Inyo County by Rick Smith of Bishop's Inland Counties Health Systems office, is a chemical that is "at least a hundred thousand (100,000) times more potent than Thalidomide (a proven cause of birth defects), and more dangerous than radioactive poisoning." Probably thousands of American troops were exposed to it in the madness that was Viet Nam.

Recently, a presidential candidate mindlessly referred to Viet Nam as "a noble war."

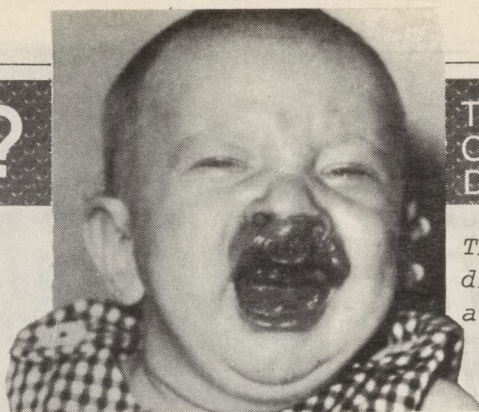
One veteran living at Bishop, 30-year-old Dan Hayes, would not agree. In August, following revelation of the "Agent Orange" problem, he came forth with pictures of his son, two-year-old Travis, a birth defect victim. "Maybe publication of the pictures - They're not pretty - will help bring this thing to light," said Hayes. "The way the Veterans Administration treated me, it seems like they're trying to cover it up. They take a kind of 'If-you-don't-talk-about-it, maybe-it'll-go-away attitude.'" Hayes, an employee of the Union Carbide mine, is not only willing to talk about it; it would appear he's ready to scream to high heaven - he, and a lot of other veterans.

Says his wife, Julie: "We first heard about Agent Orange when we were in Los

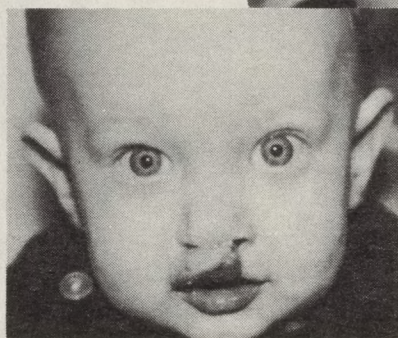
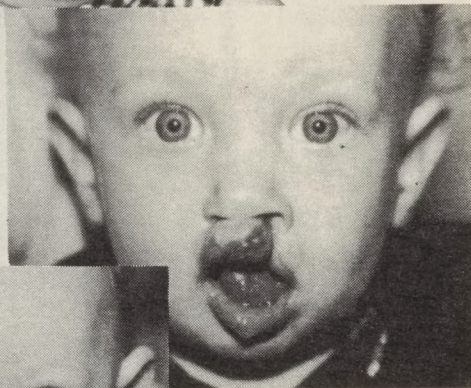
Continued page 22

TRAGEDY OF BIRTH DEFECTS

Travis Hayes' disfigurement at birth



After several operations things improved some...



...but still more operations will be needed. The parents are now afraid to have any more children.



A hope for future "normalcy"

A VERY CONTROVERSIAL PLOT

ANOTHER BUILDER
TRIES A CONDO
DEVELOPMENT ON
WEST LINE
STREET'S CON-
TROVERSIAL
ACREAGE, AND
HE QUICKLY
RUNS INTO THE
ISSUE THAT IS
FAST BECOMING
BISHOP'S FAVORITE
"GROWTH" DISPUTE



Litter-strewn acreage at Bishop's West Line and Grandview

"...why all the protest over what would clearly be an improvement?"

The protestors were monotonously the same, the complaints the same; it was even the same West Bishop plot of land. But this time it was a different developer with a different condominium plan.

Condominiums have somehow entered the class of foundries and tire factories in desirability status rating with a number of Bishop residents. Last year, Paul Martin and his associates tried to build a 37-unit condo on a nearly three acres of land on West Line St. Residents of the area reacted with indignant anger over what they called the high density of the project and what they believed would be its negative impact on their neighborhood. Some said that condominiums were "not suitable" for that area. No one seemed to know specifically why, however.

A year ago the planning commission had offered approval to Martin's project but then the supervisors turned him down. They backed the citizen complaint that density should be lower. But Martin said that financially, he couldn't make it work at a lower density. Martin and his partners were angered and disappointed by the turn-down and in May Martin, Bud Rogers, and Harold Vernon filed a lawsuit, naming Supervisors Lefty Irwin, Wilma Muth, Buck Gibbons and "Does 1-100."

That suit has not been vigorously pursued, but the continuingly vacant land has. Now a real estate man from Los Angeles, Paul Eckert, said he bought the property and later found out about its controversial history. He, perhaps naively, believed that he could create a project that would prove acceptable to the sancti-

moniously inclined suburbanites of West Bishop. Eckert said he studied Martin's plan and carefully addressed each one of the neighborhood complaints. But, said Eckert, "This is not the Martin project. I am not Paul Martin. The densities are similar but there are differences in playground area, open space, buffer zones, landscaping, and parking. As for destroying the area, I think it (my project) is beautiful. Now that land is an ugly field with garbage and a fallen-down fence." No question about his latter claim, and observers wonder why all the protest over what would plainly be an improvement.

But it appears the residents in the area prefer the trashy open space to even Eckert's plan. At a planning commission meeting, some of those in the

forefront of the opposition offered their views. Barbara Toth read nine letters in opposition. The writers of the letters lamented what they called potential traffic problems, fire equipment access, density, parking, decrease of home values, and they clearly wanted no high-rise buildings.

Gail Stenge told the commission that the Property Owners Association opposes the project because it is incompatible with the neighborhood and doesn't meet the needs of housing in the area. She, as well as others - wanted a density of 20-24 units, if any. And some said that condos "just aren't selling in Bishop anyway." Eckert replied saying that the salability of his project was his problem, and he added that the "undertone" of the disgruntlement was "what kind of people will move in." He said that if the density goes down, the price of the units goes up.

The Planning Commission, following a Bishop hearing which cost the county in excess of \$300, nixed Eckert's plan. And on that Bishop hearing - another stormy and disappointing one for Eckert - reporter Peter Pearson filed this report:

The denial came after a second public hearing given in the Bishop's City Council Chambers for the benefit of residents that live close to the proposed project area. By Bishop standards, the hearing was well attended by no less than 46 very interested citizens, of which 17 gave testimony in opposition to the proposal. No one, other than the developer, gave any support to the controversial project.

In opposition, the comments expressed were in regards to:

Photo:
Peter Pearson

West Bishop residents re-voice opposition to condos

Monotonous sameness, but a different project



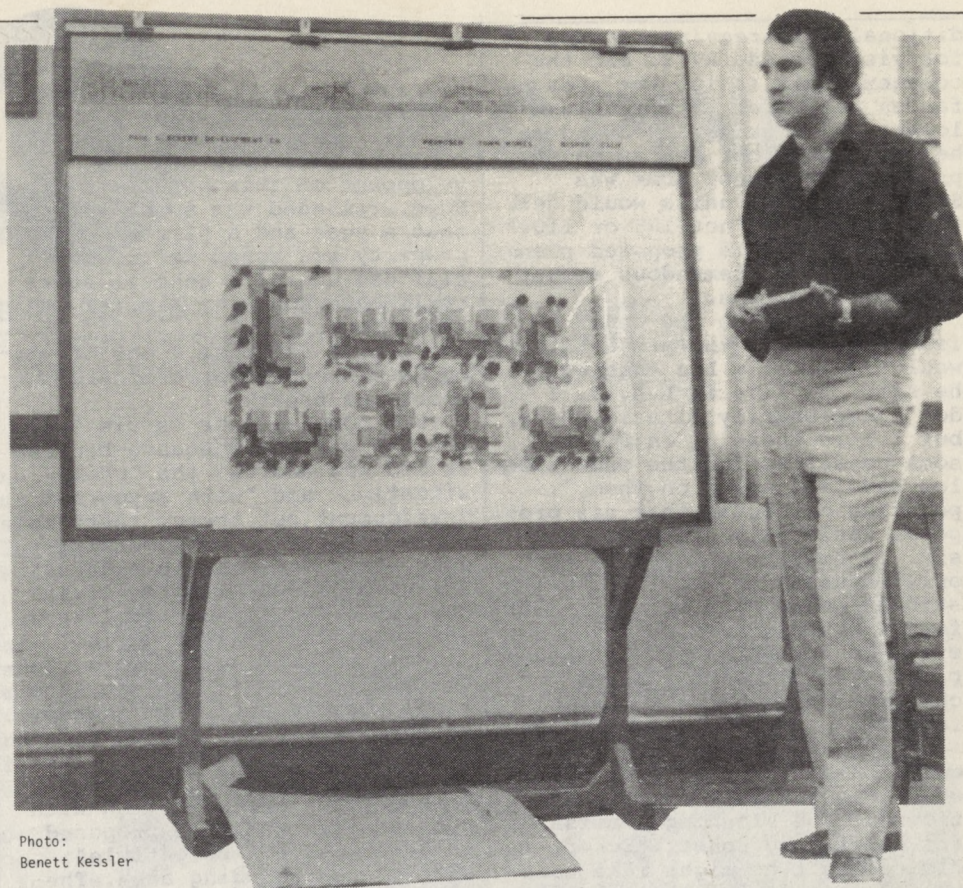
Photo:
Benett Kessler

Developer Eckert exhibits plans for his spacious low-rise.

"too great a density" for the established area, possible added air pollution from the proposed condos' fire places, more traffic congestion, inadequate parking, devaluation of surrounding homes and an environmental impact report that did not address the issues of a project that is now intended to be sold to "families with children." Who, in the view of the opposition, needs kids? It was pointed out that the findings of the EIR were made with the information, from Eckert, that the project would be an "all-adult" complex. What affect this would have on the already financially hard-hit

school district is not known, but Eckert said the project would increase the county's tax base by \$750,000.

Eckert responded to most of the concerns expressed by the opponents while some members of the audience mumbled only lightly audible protests. Quite a contrast to Eckert's own patient listening. At one point, when the audience had interrupted him again, the commission's chairman, Robert Gracey, instructed Eckert to "not antagonize the audience." Eckert went on to explain that the project was designed to have two parking spaces for each unit plus 27 ad-



ditional, non-required spaces for visitors and RV's, and the complex would assist the area as far as providing "affordable, low-priced housing." He said that he had found that the average price for a Bishop home was \$90,000 and his units would sell for \$100,000 - "not 105 or 110." In regards to his proposed plans, he had "put a tremendous amount of work into this."

In response to the density issue, and that the project would "look like Los Angeles," he said, "I live in L.A.... I don't necessarily like it there, but I live there... In L.A., some densities for the same size lot have 124 units on them.", pointing out again that his proposal would only have thirty-six. If he were allowed to put only 20 units on the lot, he said he would have to sell them for \$150,000 - just to break even. He further showed, on the plans, where the play areas for children would be, next to an intended pond.

The hearing continued with a question-and-answer session where the audience asked questions of the Planning Commission, its staff and Eckert. Eckert indicated that he might make some concessions as far as replacing the proposed wood fence to the West with a block wall, but felt that this would not cut down noise any more effectively and would "not be as esthetic." He also said, about the project not having a sidewalk on the West Line St. side, that if a sidewalk is wanted, he would put one

in.

After two and a half hours of hearing the pros and cons, the commissioners had a few comments of their own. One commissioner who stood in favor of condo development on this parcel, Keith Boyd, reminded the spectators that a year and a half ago, the property was zoned for commercial use where "a general store could have gone in, a motel, a restaurant."

"A nice cathouse," one of the opponents added sarcastically under his breath.

But Commissioner Jarvis said the EIR was not adequate because it did not address the "child situation" and "with anymore development out there, there is going to have to be something done about the traffic lights." She also added, "I think if it has to be developed, I'd like to see something smaller go in."

With concluding comments, Jarvis made the motion to deny the conditional use permit, thereby, preventing the project's beginning, at least for now, noting again her reasons. Commissioner Graham seconded the motion with her addition that the proposed project was "not compatible" with the surrounding area. The motion was denied - Dinsmore, Gracey and Boyd all voting no. Dinsmore explained, before he cast his vote, that he was not against the project, only the density and he wanted to delay the action until another hearing set for late August.

With no action taken on approval or denial, Dinsmore made

the motion to continue the meeting and decision "to August 25th", but withdrew his motion and asked Eckert if he had any comments; would he consider redesigning the 36 units to 30? Eckert responded in the negative and Commissioner Graham injected: "Thirty units is too much."

The motion for denial was made again, by Graham this time, with the same results. So, Dinsmore put his continuance motion on the floor. At this point, Planning Director Hilton patiently explained to the commissioners that a decision had to be made "that night" because of a legal time limit involved. The vote was cast on Dinsmore's motion, not passing - Graham, Jarvis and Chairman Gracey voting no.

Commissioner Boyd wanted to know why the commission couldn't just turn the decision over to the board of supervisors. Evidently, he was unaware that any decision that the commission made could be appealed and the board would make a final decision anyway.

Once again, Graham made the motion to deny the project and finally, (to the relief of some) an action was taken and the project was denied by the switch of Commissioner Dinsmore's vote to yes. Now, the ultimate decision rests with the board of supervisors, as Mr. Eckert plans to make such an appeal.

The appeal hearing was scheduled for September 10th at the courthouse.

"AGENT ORANGE" continued

Angeles for one of the series of operations on Travis. We read about it in the L.A. paper." It was after that that Hayes got the VA brush-off, and a refusal for testing, from the VA. Hayes shows many of the symptoms now tentatively attributed to AO.

So far, little Travis has undergone several corrective surgical operations to overcome his frankly awful disfigurement, which includes a cleft palate and cleft lip. An otherwise handsome child, he may later enjoy "normalcy," but only after at least six more operations.

Smith has begun a publicity program in hopes of reaching the veterans who may have dioxin symptoms, and he urges that they be tested for traces of the chemical. Smith is himself a Viet Nam veteran, and he is convinced along with many others that the VA and Defense Department are covering up what he believes to be a "dangerous situation that only now we're beginning to understand."

Travis Hayes with his mother and father at their Bishop home.
Inset: Rick Smith of ICHS.



BIG EYE ON BIG PINE

JIM MITCHELL, AN AWARD-WINNING TELEVISION REPORTER, BRINGS HIS "CHANNEL 2 INVESTIGATIVE TEAM" TO BIG PINE TO STUDY THE COMMUNITY'S REACTION TO THE RAY LEVITT CHILD MOLESTATION CASE; IF BIG PINE'S RESIDENTS WANTED "COVERAGE", THEY GOT IT IN SPADES.

A number of sober-minded Big Pine residents and victimized parents preferred to forget it. To them, the sordid story of young Big Pine boys sexually molested by their school teacher was not one they wished to carry beyond closed doors. But many others, either angered or titillated by the school teacher's arrest and subsequent sentencing to a state mental facility, were up in arms: They circulated petitions demanding stiffer punishment - and callers to the news media were demanding "more coverage" of the LeVitt case, and particularly more "exposure" of the "light sentence."

Meanwhile, an award-winning reporter for a Los Angeles television station, Jim Mitchell, had been uncovering what to him was an alarming increase in child molesting cases in the California Southland. He prepared and broadcast a five-part series on the growing issue, and as it turned out his ongoing coverage was not lost upon a large number of Big Pine's angry people. They fired off "many" letters to an organization known as "SLAM", an acronym for "Stronger Legislation Against Molesters." The letters were forwarded to Mitchell who - even though his series was concluded - quickly organized his "Channel 2 Investigative Team", and headed north to Big Pine. If Big Pine people wanted "cover-

Continued next page

Text and Photos by
John Heston
Benett Kessler



Reporter Mitchell confers on "story line" with producer and assistant Nancy Jacoby. Below: Channel 2 camera crew focuses on a Big Pine crowd gathered to see Mitchell's series.



age", they'd get it in spades.

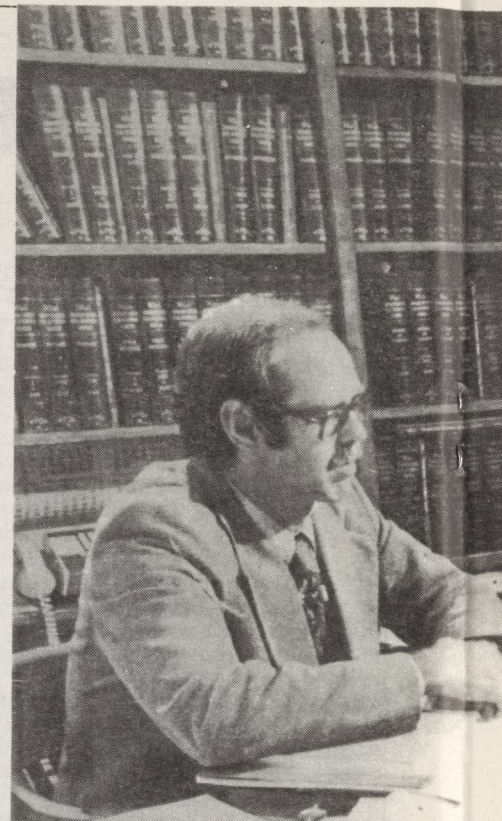
Before Mitchell arrived, his co-worker Nancy Jacoby, a producer and researcher, had organized no less than a town meeting at which Mitchell was to appear as a kind of Channel 2 public service speaker. They stayed in town three days, interviewing those parents who would agree to talk on-camera, some reluctant school officials, the district attorney, and just "people on the streets." Mitchell hinted, though he did not state, that the local media may have "played down" the LeVitt case - which in part was true, since local reporters were fully aware that too much sensational overkill coverage might result in a change of venue for any further charges or court hearings; they "played it straight" in an attempt to cooperate with law enforcement and prosecution officials and, besides, they reasoned, there was always LeVitt's innocent family to consider.

But with Mitchell's arrival, the LeVitt case was noisily out of the bag. Gathered in the school music room, a goodly turnout of the townsfolk watched TV cassette reruns of Mitchell's other broadcasts - while Mitchell answered questions and gave advice as best he could - and while the Channel 2 camera sought out Big Pine faces in the crowd for future airing.

Mitchell managed to run into some opposition in Inyo County: His request for

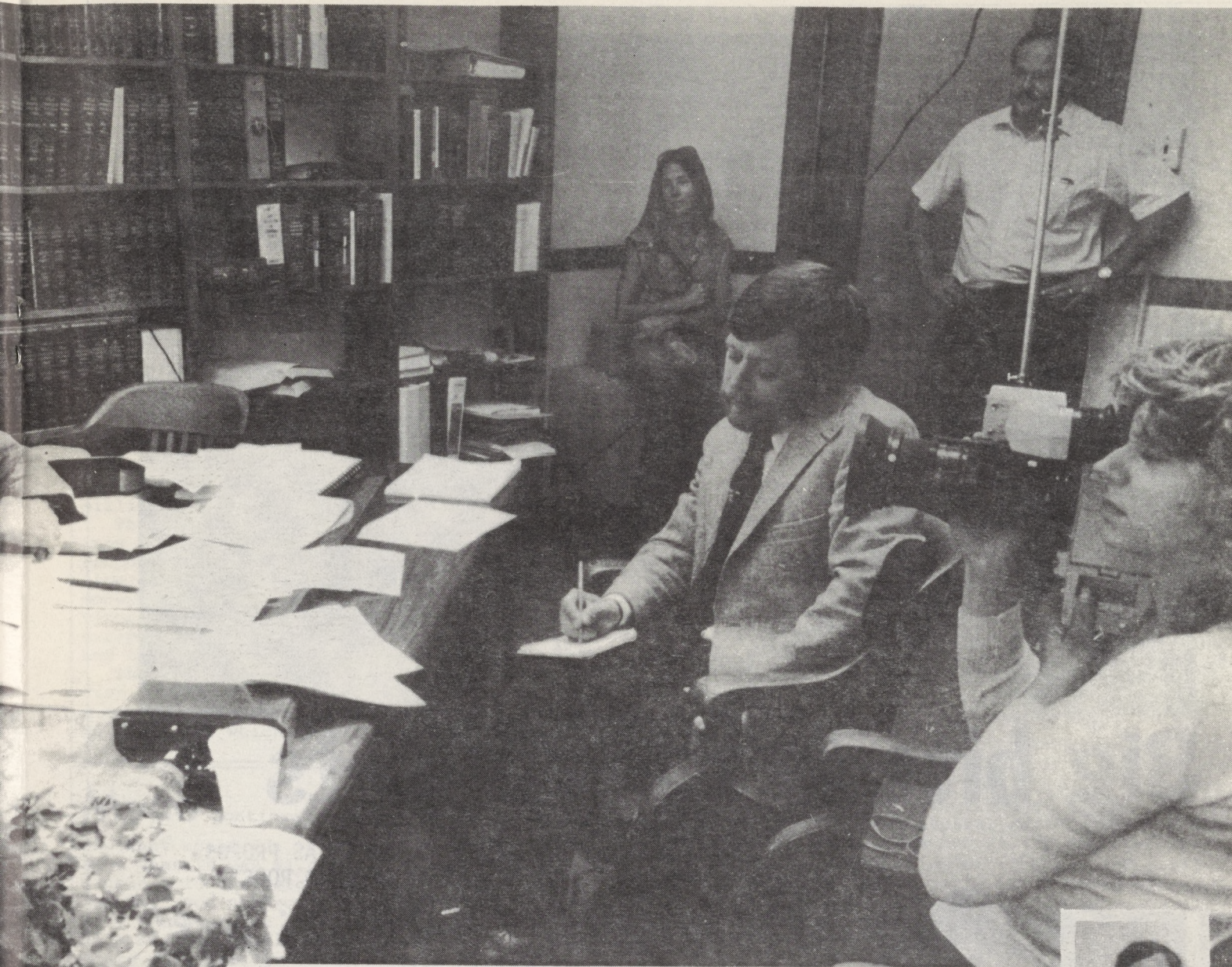


Former Teacher LeVitt



School Superintendent Dean Crechriou, upper left, was at first reluctant to elaborate on the LeVitt case, but later aided Mitchell.





Mitchell's story included an interview with DA "Buck" Gibbons

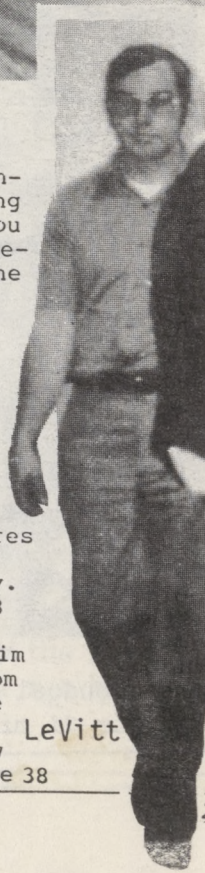
LeVitt's probation report - a routine request quickly granted in other, urban centers - was flatly turned down in a hearing before Superior Judge Verne Summers. (I'll take care of that when I get back to L.A.," said Mitchell. "It is simply illegal for him to hold the report, and CBS Network has scores of lawyers standing around with nothing to do.") Mitchell also managed later to get an interview with LeVitt himself who is currently held at Atascadero State Hospital. Mitchell told the *News-Letter*, which assisted his crew in covering the story, about a portion of his conversation with LeVitt. He said LeVitt "was aware" of the community's reaction to his crimes, and that he had "been depressed for quite awhile." As for the molesting cases themselves - to which LeVitt freely confessed - he was quoted as saying: "I'm only now ready to start probing. I wish to God they could hypnotize me and tell me not to do it again and that would be the end of it. But that's not the way things work." LeVitt broke into tears during the on-camera interview, and wondered if he could

"ever make it up to the community."

"I just don't know," the former teacher told Mitchell, "It's not like running over your neighbor's rosebush, where you can just go out and buy another one." LeVitt said he "doesn't want to commit the crimes again. I'm only 32 years old. I have a lot of years ahead of me and I have to live with this for the rest of my life. But I do have enough faith in myself that I can overcome this and start again."

Not if the teachers' organizations, the sheriff's office, the district attorney and most of the Big Pine people have anything to do with it. Not as a teacher, at any rate. Under the pressures of the public's angry demands LeVitt's teaching credentials were stripped away. The record of his crimes - including 13 additional charges which come to court this month - will effectively prevent him from teaching, and may also bar him from many other areas of employment, once he is out of custody. People in Big Pine, LeVitt roused to veritable lynch-mob pitch, saw

Continued page 38



OUCH!

Big bite in the budgets

COUNTIES CONSIDER SOME SEVERE CUTBACKS AS PROPOSITION 13'S REALITY COMES HARSHLY HOME TO ROOST



Photo: Benett Kessler

End of a budget meeting
Search for \$1 million

Inyo cutbacks

Human survival seems nowadays to require everything from Rolls Royces to TV Guides and paper towels. But Mosquitoes, veritable paragons of exemplary frugality, proliferate happily and abundantly with such austere limitations as a drop of water on the back of a leaf. In Inyo, the spartan mosquito was winning the summer.

Do we stand even a chance against these pests?

Well, sort of. There's pesticide and fly swatters and folded newspapers and aerosol. But there used to be the mosquito control program. It's one of the several programs and job positions now listed in the obituary of the post-budget hearing. It was a tense month over at the Inyo courthouse. More than 20 employees gloomily expected red-penciling. And department heads faced cuts in temporary help, supplies, travel, and other expenses. County employees meanwhile were

Continued next page

Mono ski tax?

Although Mono County is bound by the same Proposition 13 tax limitations that Inyo lives under, there has been an increasing turn-over in property ownership and a consequent re-evaluation of some property. That means more tax money can be collected.

Going into the budget this year, department head requests left a deficit of around a million and a half dollars, according to County Counsel Neil Van Winkle. He said that the Mono budget is not yet finalized, but could be, on September 10, at a final supervisors' hearing. Van Winkle said that the supervisors had required department heads to "make more cuts."

One of the biggest problem areas is Mono's road department. Van Winkle said that roads "asked for one-and-a-half times more money this year than last." He said that initially the road de-

Continued next page

Inyo Continued

struggling for a cost-of-living increase. As one member of the County Employees Association, Roger DeHart, described courthouse morale: "It's been like a morgue around here. The employees are depressed and frustrated."

Consequently, the employees association stung the board with an angry letter highly critical of the way the supervisors had handled their money situation. DeHart said employees feel that there should have been a better preparation, one anticipating the budget deficit with early warning signals. But Administrator John Smith and the board members claim that they "didn't know" the budget situation would be quite so serious.

As budget time drew near, the county was dealing with a \$1.1 million deficit.

The fact is, almost everyone knew that the full impact of Proposition 13 was coming - some time - and that state bail-out money was waning. But the supervisors had opted not to prepare, except by making a few cuts here and there in the past two years.

Then in last-minute desperation, the supervisors trotted out a special tax to be placed on the ballot...one which would charge

a certain amount "by the acre." DWP balked and questioned it. The county had no time to properly research it, so the innovative idea was dropped. But cropping up in its place was another tax plan, one born prematurely two years ago but which has been incubating meanwhile. The board approved a plan to charge City of Los Angeles at a separate and higher tax rate than other Inyo land owners. Although they had not, at last report, actually set the tax rate, the board did include items in the final, adopted budget which the higher tax would pay for.

Casting about for budget cuts, it appeared they would get rid of Special Counsel Tony Rossmann and County Hydrologist Phil Williams. But somehow Rossmann, County Counsel Dennis Myers, his assistant Greg James, and DA Buck Gibbons, managed to convince at least three supervisors to keep a "special consultant budget." Johnny Johnson and Lefty Irwin had voted no on that and on the final budget adoption.

More than a few courthouse watchers noted the seeming ineptitude of the supervisors and an apparent inability to make any decisions during budget hearings. On the final day (it was an afternoon well qualified for a segment on the "That's Incredi-

ble" TV show), the board spent nearly four hours waffling, flip-flopping, arguing, delaying, and displaying an embarrassing paucity of simple thought processes. Many department heads commented on the "unbelievable" behavior of the board. One day they said no raises, or re-classifications. The next day they proceeded to vote-in raises. Then, when some grew outraged that raises would be given while employees were being laid-off, the board reversed itself and voted that there would, in fact, be no raises.

Suddenly getting it together, they finally adopted a budget of \$14,047,542, with only six positions cut. And three of those, according to Administrator Smith, are already vacant. And so a total of three workers were to be terminated, not bad after such confusion. But among those was the mosquito control co-ordinator, Mike Faisy. Also axed were the assessor's Clerk I and a maintenance and construction worker in public works.

The county's advertising budget went down the drain, a small loss. And so, too, went the county's contribution to the Laws Museum near Bishop. The doors of that historical building may close altogether.

Many positions and programs

Continued next page

Mono Continued

partment asked for \$2,835,780. Last year it was \$1,438,885. Van Winkle said the large request was for road projects. Few would deny the need for road repairs in Mono, especially in Mammoth where at times, in rough driving, it seems one could virtually disappear in one of the countless chuck holes.

Some officials had tried a new idea in coming up with funds to repair the roads. Supervisor Gene Hanson had proposed a ski tax. Van Winkle said that the tax would have amounted to five percent on the lift tickets at Mammoth Mountain, and that it could have raised in excess of a million dollars in the first year.

But predictably, Supervisor Don Sharp, a Mammoth Mountain employee, strongly opposed the tax. Dave McCoy, the lift owner, was against it, and sometimes in Mono McCoy's wish is law. Supervisor Gene Hanson had proposed placing the ski tax on the ballot. But there was never a motion to do that. Instead, the supervisors unanimously decided against placing such a tax on the ballot, and instead scheduled a meeting for January to reconsider the tax for 1981. And there was also talk of getting together a task force

to study a ski tax proposal.

It was suggested by some that a ski tax would justly pay for repairing the roads that the skiers themselves wear out.

So far, Mono's budget hassles have not produced any potential personnel cuts. Some requests for new positions have been denied, although Van Winkle did say that the Mono sheriff was assigned four new positions.

He said that all department heads have asked for more and, undeniably, cost of services is going up. He said, too, that although the assessed valuation in Mono is up, 60% of tax increases goes to schools and special districts, not into the county coffers.

Budget-time produced at least one employee scare. That erupted up at Bridgeport at the Mono General Hospital. Workers there "had heard" that the supervisors planned to close down the hospital. And in fact, some of them have been thinking about it. Supervisor Coy Ziglar of Bridgeport said he definitely does not want to see a hospital closure. But he also said that supervisors Don Sharp, Gene Hanson and Bob Stanford feel the hospital "may have to close and that we would use an ambulance and clinic instead."

Counsel Van Winkle confirmed

that the "board is going through the county budget and has asked the hospital administrator to redo his budget, to explore possibilities of closure, and possibilities for a 24-hour emergency care facility with a regularly scheduled clinic."

He said that Hospital Administrator Tom Corbin was asked to chop more than \$300,000 out of his budget. Van Winkle added that if it were decided that the hospital must close, it would take at least a year to finally close it down.

Meanwhile, Mono County personnel received a 13% cost-of-living increase, a slight morale booster.

MORE ON THE COUNTIES

- ◆ The "budget" may lie at the root of new problems in the Inyo health department. See P.30
- ◆ For more on the Mono supervisors see Wally's View, P.12.

slated for cutbacks were salvaged by a last minute mini-wind-fall. Assessor Jack Clay brought news that a supreme court ruling had made it possible to bill a little more for unsecured property taxes for 1978-79. That meant an additional \$150,000. Rescued were two sheriff's deputies, the assistant county administrator and assistant county counsel... along with a number of other assistant positions. Also included in a last-minute salvation was the county civil defense program, the veterans service officer, and others.

But "services" took a trimming: County library hours were nearly cut in half. And numerous county campgrounds and parks are to be closed.

Travel expenses were decreased and the supervisors wisely voted down their own cost-of-living increase. But District Attorney Buck Gibbons offered the board an argument: Reducing the board pay would only tend to limit the types of people who could do the job...the elderly, or the independently wealthy. Who else could afford to serve as a supervisor at only about \$900 a month?

Clearly we get what we pay for.

For weeks, mosquitoes had raised itchy welts and a lot of

frustrated anger among the tormented citizenry. Calls to the health department and to county officials increased with every passing horde of the insects that blew into Inyo communities with every little breeze.

Happily, the cancellation of the mosquito abatement program came after cooler weather had already reduced the insect assault, else the harrassed supervisors may have had to answer to yet another angry public outcry.

Outspoken as always, the county health officer, Dr. George Kibler, was "mad as hell" at the cancellation of what he believed to be a priority consideration in any serious public health project. There had been at least one death from encephalitis and another serious case of it - but whether they were caused by mosquito bite was never conclusively established. The situation was not brightened when the state health department announced late in August that California was experiencing a 382% increase in malaria - due primarily to an influx of Asians into the state.

And where were all the mosquitoes coming from? The source was obvious: For weeks, the Department of Water and Power had turned its embarrassment of water riches out onto the valley floor with the weak and unconvincing explanation that the

wasted water would be reabsorbed into the underground aquifers. Water experts (including, privately, one of DWP's own) said that the idea of waste surface water going back into the underground table was nonsense. It only evaporated-slowly.

But DWP's hundreds of lakes and ponds - along with a record heat spell - provided an ideal breeding setup for the mosquitoes. Some mosquito control people said that DWP "should be forced to pay" for the county's mosquito abatement program since DWP was "at least ninety percent of the cause." But when earlier approached on the matter, DWP officials had replied by saying, in effect, that DWP "pays taxes" that should cover the program.

Did the mosquitoes of August - or of any future August - really pose any present or future danger to the health of the county? Plainly, the budget cutters did not think so, and in that they have so far lucked out.

But the concern of health officials is a serious one. Any one of a combination of circumstances - warm weather, standing water, the appearance here of a malaria-stricken Viet Nam veteran (and there are many of these in and out on vacation),



AUTO PARTS & SALES

Where Service Comes First

THREE LOCATIONS
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

ALCO seat covers
in all sizes
and colors

MAMMOTH LAKES
934-3366
BRIDGEPORT
932-7740
JUNE LAKE
648-7785

BISHOP FEED AND SUPPLY STOCKADE/FEEDLOT FENCING



The "RUGGED ONE"

Heavy gauge steel rods fused into a permanent bond at each intersection. You get galvanizing after welding for "complete" protection against rust.

For the best in steel rod fence paneling, see us today.

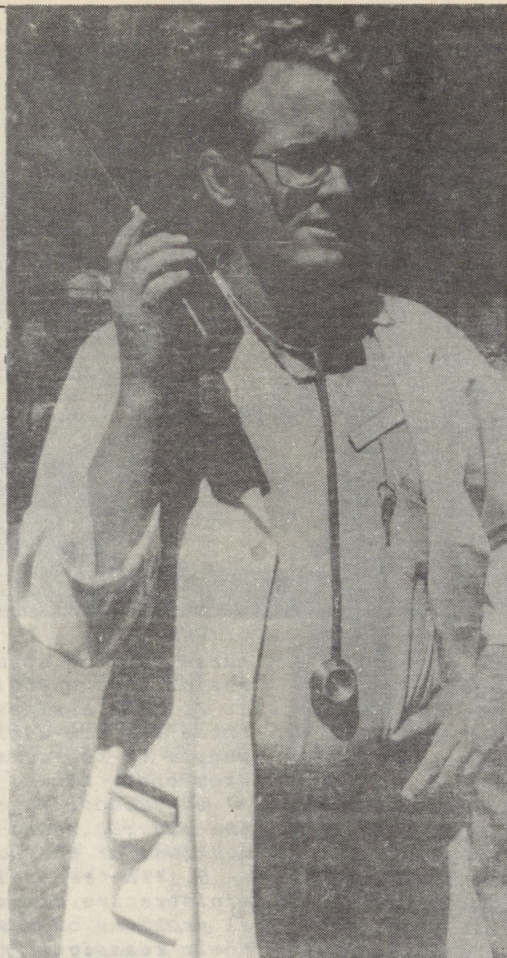
"Buy Direct and Save"
BISHOP FEED AND SUPPLY

1674 NORTH SIERRA HWY. BISHOP, CALIFORNIA

could possibly cause a veritable epidemic in any summer season. The mosquito abatement program, or lack of it, promises to create a sizeable problem demanding serious consideration and solutions by future supervisors. Like the mosquitoes themselves, the problem is one that won't just go away.

(Meanwhile, one resident was happy to see the program ended and he offered a unique, long-term solution. For his view, see Forum, Page 8.)

Budget cuts may require a reshuffling of personnel and services. That has been the case in the Inyo Health Department, and the results have not been pleasant. Reorganization has brought about resignations and angry claims against the health officer. ➔



DOCTOR IN A HURRY

A busy man, Inyo's health officer, Dr. George Kibler, keeps in touch with his office by way of a portable radio monitor. In recent months, budget restrictions have necessitated a reorganization in his department. As a result, several employees have resigned with bitter complaints about reassignments, and about Kibler himself. Some workers regard his no nonsense impersonality as "arrogance." For their complaints, and his reply, see the story which begins on the next page.



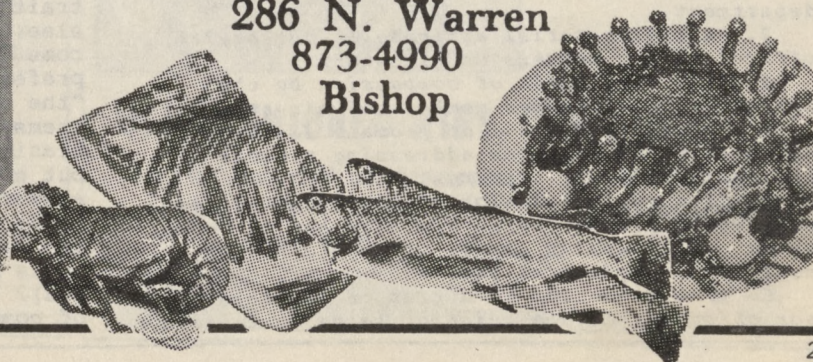
ENJOY THE BEST!



**Retail and Wholesale Meat
Fresh Seafoods**
**Locker Rentals - Freezer Beef
Custom Cutting and Wrapping**

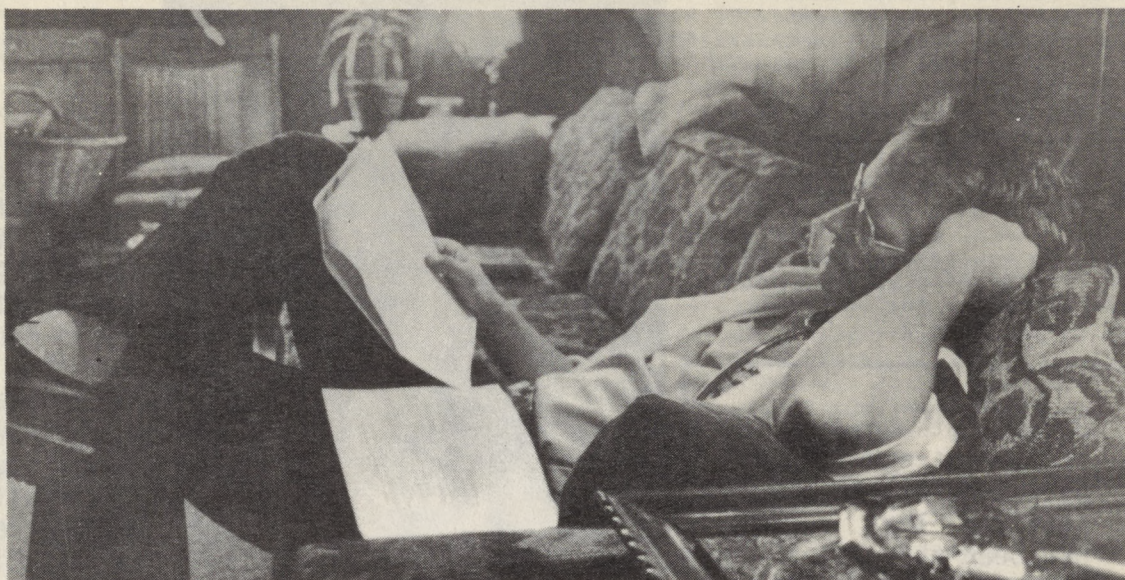
The MEAT HOUSE

**286 N. Warren
873-4990
Bishop**



Angry letter

Resigned to answering the complaints against him, Dr. George Kibler wearily pauses to read over a letter authored by bitter employees.



Accused by some angrily resigning employees of the "frequent use of profane language when addressing members of the staff," the Inyo County Health Officer, Dr. George Kibler, replied, "Yes, damn it, that's true. I use some profanity, and I don't intend to stop."

Kibler is that kind of guy - abrupt, slightly profane, self-assured, and also - as most of his colleagues and associates will readily attest - "a hard worker and an excellent doctor."

But late last month those particular qualities that in less provincial counties might in fact be admired came under heavy fire in Kibler's Bishop county health office. Either five or six (the exact number is unclear) of his top health department employees resigned or threatened to resign, and they fired off a blistering letterful of their complaints to the chairman of the board of supervisors and released a copy of the letter to the news service's Benett Kessler.

Why all the sudden employee morale problems in a county department that for years has gone along doing its thing in relative quietude? Kibler answered the question in a word: "Change."

True, long-time, comfortably situated employees have always shown a resentful and anxious resistance to change in organization structure, but the group of resigning health department workers complained of much more, listing 10 specific gripes. Clearly, the employees were mad as hell and weren't going to take it anymore.

No fewer than three nurses, an aide (or two) and a clerk (or two), stood in angry agreement with the substance of the letter which was signed by Maurine Allen of Mammoth, a (former) public health nurse in the Inyo Health Department.

The complaints, as listed:

1. "A health officer who has stated that the needs of the people can be better met through private practice rather than through the health department."

2. "The dictatorial attitude of the health officer toward members of his staff."

3. "The total lack of compassion by the health officer towards members of his staff."

4. "The frequent use of profane language by the health officer when addressing members of the staff at their meetings."

5. "The reorganization of the health department which places people who have had no formal nurse's training in charge of public health nurses and registered nurses."

6. "The reduction of duties of the supervisor of nurses to the point of being just another

nurse for the apparent reason of getting her to resign. Successful by the way."

7. "The assignment of the front line people, those who are administering to the needs of the people of the community, to offices far removed from their homes."

8. "School nursing, clinics, and programs for the elderly being added to the already heavy workload of the home health nursing supervisor."

9. "The refusal of the health officer's administrative assistant to listen to the personal problems of members of the staff regarding their reassignments."

10. "The derogatory remarks by the health officer regarding the honesty of his predecessor."

Strong words, those, and seemingly aimed at situations that in some cases might appear to be vulnerable and tender spots. Kibler was confronted with the letter even before it came into the hands of the board of supervisors. With an almost predictable self-assurance, Kibler replied; and in some of his replies he offered not only clarification, but also devastation, of the enumerated complaints.

As to the first - "needs of the people... better met through private practice...", Kibler quickly pointed to the county's budget situation (which, finally, may be the basic problem underlying the entire controversy). Kibler said his department simply has no funds to finance what he calls a "general medical clinic," although the department "does see some patients within the special clinics, like birth control." Not only are there "plenty of private physicians in Bishop for general medical care," there may also be "almost too many doctors in Bishop."

As for his "dictatorial attitude" (#2), Kibler clearly need not confess to a personality trait plainly visible to all. He is, if nothing else, a "strong man." In talking, he does not come on with what to him is needless sentiment, preferring to deal with what he perceives to be "the real world". Among sensitive folk who see themselves as "friendly," Kibler might seem abrasive; he makes no effort to defend the trait, but he replied: "There's really no good way to answer that charge, but I do allow my department heads to make decisions - I do delegate authority - and I back up their decisions."

Is Dr. George Kibler lacking in "compassion" (#3)? "That's wrong," he says. "I do have a lot of compassion for them." But then, Kibler is

not overly given to teary-eyed demonstrations of "compassion." As for #4, the matter of his profanity, he hesitated not at all: "Yes, damn it, that's true." He further allowed that it is a trait he acquired early and one that he has no immediate intentions of correcting: "Hell No!", he assured the reporters.

But the touchy spots - the apparent genuine concerns of the employees - were stated with more than a little anger and frustration in #5 - "reorganization." And their complaint here may form the crux of the issue embracing all the others.

Kibler made use of the complaining employees' fortunate or unfortunate choice of wording, which he repeated: "The reorganization of the health department which places people who have had no formal nurse's training in charge of public health nurses and registered nurses' ... A good answer to that would be to put a comma on the end of the statement and add 'has improved the functioning of the health department significantly!' In other words, Kibler stands behind his changes - and he offers this substantive logic as his reason for - Heaven forbid! - *changing* the long-surviving status quo.

"Nurse Allen refers to Mary Aseltine whom I appointed as director of clinical services. Her complaint is that Ms. Aseltine is not a nurse and that she has had no formal education beyond high school. But some people seem to have real administrative abilities. She is one of them and she is an excellent organizer and administrator. The nurse she replaces is not 'demoted,' since she still heads the nursing..." - which brings up #6, "reduction of duties of the supervisor of nurses..."

Says the doctor, "She is referring to Barbara Albright who previously held authority over all the nurses and clinics, as now Ms. Aseltine does. She only underwent a *change* in her position. She is now over the technical aspects of nursing..."

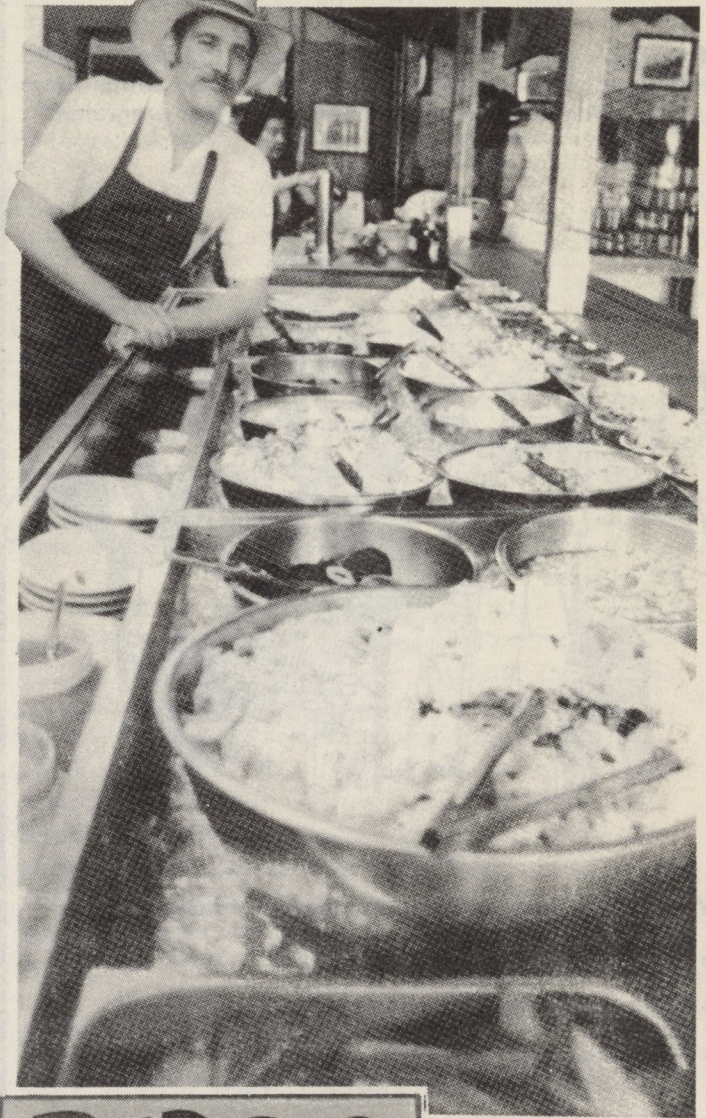
And #7 - "assignment of front line people... to offices far removed from their homes..." - deals, unkindly it would seem, with the personal situation of the author of the complaining letter. Ms. Allen, a resident of Mammoth Lakes, had been suddenly - and firmly - reassigned to duty in Lone Pine. Rather than accept the reassignment, she angrily resigned and, along with the others, made public her complaint. Clearly, in days of high priced gasoline, such a reassignment would indeed seem harsh; it required a 180-mile round trip to work and back. Kibler denies that the reassignment was for the purpose of forcing Allen's resignation. "I wasn't happy about doing it," he says, "but the health department is committed to better service in Southern Inyo. Ms. Allen was 'low man on the totem pole' (in terms of longevity in the job) and was the obvious one for a change in assignment. There was no one else." Kibler defended his position in another way, too: "She did not include in her letter the fact that I did not give her a good evaluation on her (the county's standard performance evaluation record) evaluation form. She was a problem employee." Asked to elaborate, Kibler would talk only off-the-record. Meanwhile, he has hired someone to replace her, a resident of Lone Pine, closer to home.

Allen herself takes issue with the doctor's view: "I love my work at the health department and I feel that I have in fact performed above and beyond the call of duty in fulfilling my responsibilities. And I resent a letter from Dr. Kibler to me in which he referred to my 'temper tantrums!'"

As for the "increased workload" delineated in #8 - "school nursing, clinics, programs for

Why cook? We offer CATERING SERVICE

...for a few, or a
few thousand!



187
South
Main

BISHOP

OLD FASHIONED RIBS, CHICKEN, BEEF

For a fast, easy meal take home some
barbecued ribs or chicken ...
cooked daily!

Ask about our
catering service.

872-5535

Are You Targeted?

Better Odds to Get a Job!

If you're looking for a job and fit one of the groups listed below, an employer who hires you could be entitled to a tax break under new employment tax credit programs.



You may be eligible if you are in one of these groups:

- Low-income youth aged 18-24.
- Low-income Vietnam-era veterans under age 35.
- Handicapped persons referred by the State's Rehabilitation Department or the Federal Veterans Administration.
- Youth aged 16-18 in a cooperative education program.
- Recipients of Supplemental Security Income.
- Recipients of welfare assistance.
- Low-income ex-felons within 5 years of conviction or release.

If you think you are eligible, contact us. If you qualify, you will be given a voucher to take to job interviews. When you are hired, the employer exchanges the voucher for a tax credit certificate. For more information, contact:

Bishop Job Service

633 North Main Bishop
873-7184

the elderly" - Kibler said he is willing to produce records showing just how much work has been thrust upon some of his employees in the past. He has gone to other counties to get figures that reveal workloads in terms of hours and patients served. In other areas of the state, Contra Costa County, for instance, home health nurses see an average of "10 patients per day." If Kibler's report is to be believed, the record shows an average of only two patients per day in Inyo. "So we got the nurses who didn't have a lot to do - sitting around in the office we rented in West Bishop - to do other things. The real problem here is that they just don't want to change." Kibler says the county health department has been "\$14,000 in the hole on that program," and when you're operating on a tight budget, which his department is, that may be a considerable savings.

Does Kibler's administrative assistant "listen" to the personal complaints of his people when they are reassigned as claimed in #9? Says Kibler: "The assistant mentioned is Joan Bastian. They claim she is not qualified for the job she's assigned to. The fact is that she has great administrative ability and she has been doing the job all along under Dr. Hough. Now it's 'official.' It is true that she does not listen to personnel problems; that is not her job. But we do listen, we have meetings. I think that it is the employees who don't listen when we tell them that when things are tough and money is short, we have to do the things we have to do. Under the present situation we may all have to work harder and become as efficient as possible."

That is not to say that the employees' gripes were merely the petulant complaints arising out of office politics. They were not. Kibler admits

Sun Country Realty

Lot: Half-acre zoned RMH. \$20,000, owner financing...Home: 3-bedroom home, 1950 square feet. \$89,900, Big Pine. Assumable loan, owner will carry second. ...Home: 4-bedroom, West Bishop, for \$91,500...Home: 4-bedroom on 1 acre in scenic Chalfant Valley, \$149,500.

FOR A BRIGHTER TOMORROW, CALL US TODAY!

Evenings: Robin Shawn (714) 873-5944 / Elaine Duncan, (714) 873-3206 / Dottie Hutchens, (714) 873-7511.

Town House Motel

625 N. Main St., Bishop Ca. 93514 (714) 873-7117

that there is a "certain truth" to all the claims - but he questions the motives and suggests "another side" that he prefers not to air; "Why bring up some of their personal problems."

Number 10 on the list practically demanded an answer: Did he or did he not? After all, the late Dr. Hough attained in Inyo County the stature of a minor saint. It was Hough who founded the county's health department, and it was Hough who firmly ran it for the rest of his life with a keen authority and also a keen sense of Inyo politics. He had few critics.

But it may also be true that Hough did not always run the health department "by the book," and when Kibler took over he discovered, and was asked to bring to light, practices and policies that were questionable at least. Kibler declined to "bring up the past," but he did say this much:

"I was asked by the supervisors, the grand jury and by some employees why I have been billing private patients in the sanitariums when Dr. Hough did not. They brought up the issue, not me. And so I told them the truth:

"I found that Dr. Hough had been billing Medi-Cal patients on his own, taking home that money himself, while he did not bill 'private' patients. That is illegal. I did not come forth with the information, but I replied to the questions of the grand jury and the supervisors. Nothing ever came of it, anyway. But I was not making 'derogatory remarks' as the letter claims. If it was 'dishonest,' why didn't the people working there come forward a long time ago?"

Why indeed?

Ms. Allen summed up her view of the controversies in Inyo County's health department. The summation shows that, even if all of the claims can be explained, there still remains a possibly serious morale problem there, one which Kibler may soon have to deal with. Whether the supervisors will take seriously, or react to, the claims of the resigning employees has yet to be seen; Kibler thinks not.

Said Allen: "The expressed feelings and concerns, I believe, have resulted in the resignation of two public health nurses, one registered nurse, one home health aide, one clerk, and another clerk who asked to be assigned to another program. I believe the reorganization and change in assignment of personnel were made in part in order to expedite the resignations of the people whom the health officer felt he would like to eliminate from the department - not because of their ability to perform their duties, but because of his personal dislike for them." As for her own situation, she said, "I feel he assigned me to Lone Pine knowing full well it would be economically impossible for me to make the move simply because I dared to question his reorganization plan at staff meetings."

And there was more: "It is questionable to me how a health officer who has his private practice as well as serving as a reserve deputy sheriff has the time and energy required to head a full-time health department."

Indeed, others have commented on the seemingly bionic Kibler; few doubt his energy capacity. The supervisors originally hired him on a "part-time" basis, but by that they apparently meant "part time" only in terms of his pay, \$20,000 per year, a piddling sum when doctors with less ability and training earn more than \$100,000 - and put in less time. Kibler shows a "documented" 25 hours each week, though he often puts in more, and he is "on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week."

What many call his "arrogance," Kibler sees as "no nonsense." His schedule amounts to seemingly endless hours of harried effort. It

is one calling for quick, impersonal and decisive dealings with issues, patients and employees. His slim budget, which limits his options and expands his workload, is not helping matters any.

But he may have one weakness: His "newness" in Inyo County, its deep conservatism and stiff resistance to change, and its peculiar politics which deal personally, not impersonally (as in a metropolitan area), with people and employees. In Inyo one does not shuffle long-established and coveted bailiwicks without repercussion.

It is interesting to note that Kibler calls for "working harder" and for increased "efficiency."

That idea of course runs contrary to the "American Dream"; a concept fervently pursued and dearly clung to by the American worker in any field. People have long been told, indeed programmed, to believe that time on the job always pays off in easier jobs and increasing affluence. "Recession" and "inflation" and "shortages" and "budget problems" as defined by Proposition 13 and Arabian oil, are still new to most working people in Inyo and elsewhere. Did the "American Dream" drop dead somewhere near Danang? There are those, perhaps Kibler included, who think so, and the public dollar is getting scarce except for the bureaucrats. As of July, Inyo County was hurting, and the pinch so far is hardly felt; there may be lower pay, harder work and lessening of authority for many of the county's workers. Kibler, however reluctantly, seems to have grasped that fact.

As the new month began, Kibler appeared before the board of supervisors to argue his budget case, and to ask increases in salary for some of his reassigned people. Board members, who by then had examined the Allen letter, appeared not to be overly concerned about it - but they refused Kibler's request for wage increases. Kibler testily argued that the reassigned workers now perform more work, and accept more responsibility. No matter, his argument was to no avail. Then, his anger rising, he asked with some sarcasm: "If the people decide to resign, then do you want me to look into making the health department into a contract health department?" No, was the response.



In Inyo County, a lack of funds ended the county's mosquito control program. Program co-ordinator Mike Faisy, a specialist in his field, announced his intention to resign, but accepted a temporary reassignment. He will be out of a job by mid-September.

News Briefs

JUDGE IS FREE FROM FELONY CHARGE / GUESS WHO DOESN'T WORRY ABOUT WATER RATES / DOVE SEASON OPENS WITH PREDICTABLE CONSEQUENCES / JIM'S PHOTO CLASS / AND THE SCHAT STRIKE

LEGAL TKO: JUDGE ROBERTS WINS A ROUND IN MARIN

AS LOCAL CRITICS REGALED themselves with jokes about "Sugar Ray" Roberts (B.K.'s Notes, P. 47), Mono Superior Judge Harry Roberts had been going about his business with a serene confidence - and, as it turned out, for very good reason: Early in the month, Marin County's Judge Gary Thomas did in fact dismiss a felony charge that had been lodged against Roberts after he allegedly assaulted an officer. Had the Mono judge been bound over to a superior court on the felony count, he would have been removed from the Mono bench until the matter was settled. As it was, Thomas retained only a misdemeanor charge - that of interfering with an arrest (of Roberts' son). And on that count, Roberts is to appear in October for what will probably be another possible dismissal, or at most a fine.

Privately, some Marin court observers suggested that the disposition of the felony charge had been more than a little influenced by the fact that Roberts is a judge, the intimation being that somewhere invisibly situated between the lines of the *corpus juris* is the law that Thou shall not jail a sitting judge, nor charge him with a felony if it can be avoided. But in fact, Judge Thomas found in the testimony a good sufficiency of evidence to justify a considerable doubt about Roberts' possible guilt: A Marin lawyer had been "just passing by" when Roberts was supposed to have struck the officer, and he said he had not seen Roberts hit anyone.

INYO'S DWP BOSSES ENJOY CHEAP UNMETERED WATER

A NUMBER OF DWP'S Inyo bosses argue the justice of high metered water rates - but they privately enjoy immunity from them. As summer water bills in several communities soared to new highs, in some cases hundreds of dollars per month, a few DWP officials enjoyed rates of under \$10 a month.

Water is cheap at Bishop, and Bishop's lawns, for the most part, remain lushly green - for a pleasantly tolerable \$5 per month water rate. Similar rates are to be found in areas outside Bishop: Sierra Highlands District in West Bishop charges \$75 a year, or only about \$6.25 per month. Living comfortably with that rate are DWP's second-in-command in Inyo. Lloyd

Anderson, and the DWP properties manager, Cy Jeter. As for Jim Wickser, the top DWP man in Inyo, he is said to use water from his own private well, and he also enjoys free access to flood irrigation ditches. It has been argued by DWP's policy makers that it "costs more" to provide water for Inyo communities, but non-DWP water districts operating in the county with far less efficiency than DWP's sophisticated systems, somehow stay in the black with much lower rates.



Dove Season Opens...

...and these two Inyo hunters were treated at a hospital after they were peppered with bird shot.

THAT "GENERATOR" ISSUE COMES UP AGAIN (HO HUM)

PROBABLY BECAUSE "THE WORST" hasn't yet happened, not in eight

years anyway, the perennial issue of the "generator for the sheriff's office" has yet to be taken seriously. Grand juries have bemoaned the lack of an emergency power source for the sheriff's office and jail; the county administrator has uttered ponderous assurances that "someone is looking into it." In recent years boardrooms of supervisors have indulged much hand-wringing amid statements about a "serious need." This year, during the budget hearings, "the generator" came up again. Said Supervisor Wilma Muth: "We've been playing this game long enough." And with that, many would quickly agree, especially Inyo's Sheriff Floyd Barton who sees it as 'way up on his priority list ("Number Two"), second only to his wish to fulfill the first: "...the safety of the people on the street."

But Barton had met with the grand jury about the generator, perhaps in the hope that yet another grand jury recommendation (There have already been several) might result in a power generator.

And what would happen if "the worst" - a total power failure extended over a period of time - did occur? Lights and radio communications would go off in the sheriff's department, and at least a few jail doors would not open, all this at a time when law enforcement would be most needed.

Muth wants something done, money shortages or not. Dragging out a well-used and irrelevant metaphor-cliche, she said: "It's time to bite the bullet."

RAISE YOUR INSTAMATIC PHOTO CONSCIOUSNESS

FUZZILY-BEARDED Magazine Photographer James Smith, a sometimes-contributor to *News-Letter's* pages, has emerged publicly (He is some kind of a quiet, reclusive closet genius) to announce in his Tennessee drawl that he plans to share his photographic expertise with any in Inyo-Mono who may be interested. Smith, who spent most of the summer at gardening except for a few days during which he hob-nobbed with *Time*, *New West*, *Penthouse* and *National Geographic* cronies, said he plans to hold some "classes in serious photography for beginners and intermediates" this fall. Smith's 10-week course will include field trips into Inyo-Mono's deserts and mountains. Anyone interested in raising his or her photograph-

Continued page 38

Get carpets and upholstery *clean!*



STEAM GENIE SYSTEM - thorough extraction of dirt and grime.

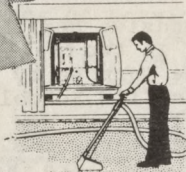
A powerful vacuum removes the dirt and solution to the truck outside. Only the cleaning wand and vacuum hose enters your home.



*Carpets,
Spring fresh!*

HIGH SIERRA — Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning

7 DAYS - 24 HOURS
873-7032



*Welcome to the Normandy Inn...
an experience in fine dining*

Brochette de Boeuf

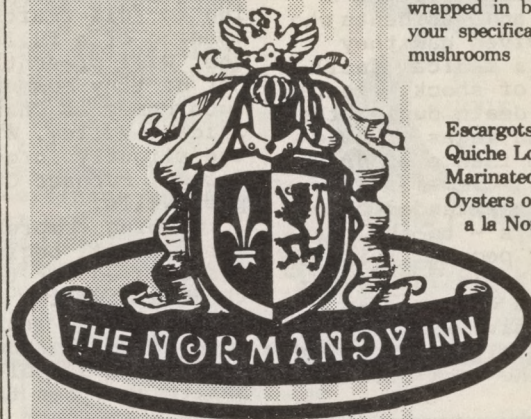
Marinated filet and top sirloin, with mushrooms, bell pepper and onion, served on a bed of rice, a la Normandy, covered with mushrooms and wine sauce

Catch of the Day

The choice of the sea, Delicately prepared to perfection

Filet Mignon

Thick center cut of the tenderloin wrapped in bacon and broiled to your specifications - capped with mushrooms



Escargots a la Bourguignonne
Quiche Lorraine
Marinated Herring
Oysters on the Halfshell
a la Normandy

Cocktails 5pm
Dinner from 5:30
Open 7 days

Crowley Lake Dr.
Just off US 395,
at Long Valley Turnoff
Two miles south of
Mammoth Lakes Airport
Telephone: (714) 935-4406

YES!

We need a
groundwater
pumping
ordinance!

The need is obvious, and the need is *Now*:

The valley is dying. Each day, more trees and shrubs - even those on private property - are dying. Lawns turn brown as subsurface water is pumped away for export to Los Angeles. Meanwhile, the pumps continue to run even when Los Angeles is virtually afloat with a huge surplus of water. It is said that DWP will oppose a groundwater ordinance "in the courts" - So be it; this may be our last chance to gain control of our own future. Our DWP-sponsored opponents would also have us believe that a pumping ordinance will create "bureaucracy." Obviously not so - Is a bureau required to enforce the laws against theft? Again, a groundwater pumping ordinance may be our last chance for ecological and economic survival. Support it.

Vote yes!



Big Pine
938-2208 P.O. Box 304
Independence
P. O. Box 487
Lone Pine
876-5660 P. O. Box 217
Bishop
873-5202

MEDICAL OASIS

YEARS OF EFFORT AND SOME HELP FROM THE STATE AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENTS PAY OFF AS THE DEATH VALLEY COMMUNITIES FINALLY GET A FULL-TIME HEALTH CLINIC

Text and Photos by
SUSAN SORRELLS

By 1976, a number of alarmed people in the Shoshone-Tecopa area had come to realize that Death Valley had for too long lived tragically up to its name. In that year a series of traffic mishaps on Death Valley's remote road system claimed an uncomfortably large number of lives among travelers and residents who might have survived had they been closer to a medical facility. Some died of shock, others simply bled to death during the long ride to Las Vegas or Lone Pine, each more than a hundred miles distant.

Local concern extended beyond the highways - to the scores of older people living in the area drawn there in wintertime by the mild climate. An ongoing and pervasive worry of many of the elderly visitors and residents was the lack of a doctor.

At Shoshone, town activist Bernice Sorrells - who, ironically, later became the victim of a too-late-discovered fatal malignancy - set about to correct the situation. She and others began a campaign to bring in a medical service. This fall their efforts appear to be coming to full fruition with the opening of a full-time clinic that will presently serve a number of tiny communities with such names as Charleston View, Chicago Valley, Wildrose, and the slightly larger Shoshone, Tecopa, Furnace Creek and Stovepipe Wells.

Ongoing comprehensive health service will begin in two trailers donated for the purpose by the Death Valley Unified School District. The trailers are now located in Shoshone nearby the local high school. And, like the health services themselves, Shoshone's approach to health care delivery is new. The clinic is to be staffed by a nurse practitioner four days a week and a doctor who will be present one day a week.

Michael Ford-Terry, the nurse practitioner, is not new to Inyo County. He worked for the Inyo County Health Department under the direction of Dr. George Kibler before taking the new position. The concept of a nurse practitioner has become prevalent throughout the United States and the world as a way of providing quality health care to a wider population than was pre-

viously possible. Ford-Terry recently moved to Shoshone from Bishop.

With the guidance of a doctor, a nurse practitioner provides essentially the same services as a doctor in the setting of a family clinic. In addition to the doctor and the nurse practitioner the Shoshone staff will include a registered nurse, a medical assistant, a medical receptionist and an administrator.

The present site amounts only to a first step. John Cassidy, the administrator, is presently negotiating a Farm Home Administration (FHA) loan which if granted will go toward building a permanent site in the Shoshone-Tecopa area. Negotiations are underway in hopes of securing land at Tecopa Hot Springs. Once the land is obtained, the building should be completed within eighteen months. By 1981 services will be extended to Furnace Creek.

But the clinic will be used not only in times of crisis caused by disease or accident. Its staff will center primarily on an ongoing system of preventative medical care with an ongoing screening program and health education, with ready access to all residents. The health center first will consolidate county programs already existing: For example, Marian Gildea, the county nurse now living in the area, will work with the clinic as a source of

Cassidy
and
trailers

A first
step



referral and support; and Susan Holgate, the mental health worker, will be provided a much needed contact center and an office for her visits to the area. The clinic also will co-ordinate and improve emergency care service. Simply by co-ordination, then, services that already exist will be enhanced with little or no increase in cost, and possibly with a cost reduction. Many other county, state and federal programs will be incorporated on the same basis, at a later date. Staff members hope that through co-ordination, then, a wide range of services, such as prenatal and child and infant programs, vision and hearing screening, X-ray services, family planning and co-ordination with hospitals and other doctors, which usually are not available in a private doctor's office will be offered by the clinic. Their's is plainly an optimistic plan.

Disease prevention, too, is a primary goal of the program.

The scope of health education will be enlarged through community workshops. To ensure that

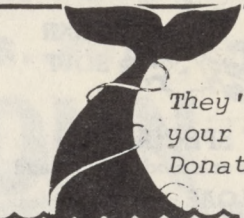
all the residents have access to these programs the clinic plans to provide free transportation and home visits as well as an escalating fee schedule for those in need of them.

After the alarming year of 1976, the community formed a non-profit corporation called Death Valley Service Area, Inc. The corporation applied for and was awarded a state grant under the rural health program for \$30,000 and a federal grant under the Rural Health Initiative for \$151,000. The community itself paid for operating expense of the corporation until the grant money arrived. A board of directors, acting as a representative group for the community, sets the policy for the clinic, and the administrator implements it. Since the health care providers receive a salary, profits are returned to the community through direct services. The community will determine which kinds of services are needed through the board. The Death Valley health system, then, will be run similar to a school district. The directors are: Helen Olson, Anne Madsen, Sylvia Bur-

ton, Luella Babbit, Charlotte Landolt and Leon Noyce.

Cassidy said that the Shoshone site provides only a temporary arrangement and that he anticipates no problems working out a proposed Tecopa site, an area considered high risk medically because of its influx of many senior citizens.

Cassidy said that for now the trailers are being renovated and that he is negotiating with several physicians, hoping to get one who would come to Death Valley part-time but remain in communication with the nurse practitioner at other times.



*They're harpooning
your friends.
Donate now!*

The Whale Protection Fund
CENTER FOR
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION
1925 K STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006

**AT INDEPENDENCE
YOU'LL GET MORE
THAN JUST A GOOD
GASOLINE AT
THIS SIGN:**



**YOU'LL GET
REAL
SERVICE**

- TUNE-UPS
- BRAKES
- TRANSMISSIONS
- AIR CONDITIONING
- COMPLETE OVERHAUL

DUNCAN'S
—878-2112—**Shell**
HWY. 395 at INDEPENDENCE

A Complete
Drug
Store

MEDICAL ARTS PHARMACY
• Prescriptions
Crutch Rentals • Medical
Supplies
934-2711



PHONE (714) 934-2711
24-HOUR EMERGENCY 934-6271

- Cameras, Kodak Film • Revlon Cosmetics • Gifts
- Beer and Wine • Ray Ban Sunglasses • Greeting Cards

BACK HOE AND DUMP TRUCK SERVICE



**GARDEN EQUIP: ROTO TILLERS, LAWN MOWERS,
WEED EATERS
MISC. PLUMBING TOOLS**

• **SEWER PIPE CUTTERS**

2587 W. LINE 873-4924
BISHOP

Channel 2
and the
LeVitt case
continued

LeVitt's sentence to the state hospital as a mere slap on the wrist.

In that view, they were in part justified: According to Mitchell's own in-depth statewide investigation, the prognosis for LeVitt and others like him is not favorable. There have been few "cures" for the compulsive tendency to molest

children - a fact with which LeVitt himself seems to be sadly aware.

Meanwhile, the Big Pine people got the "coverage" they clamored for: On Sept. 8-9, Mitchell was to tell the "LeVitt story" in a dramatic two-part airing on Channel 2's prime-time news.



GREAT DINING

**SALAD BAR
& SOUP**

DAILY SPECIALS

Includes soup or salad bar & hot bread

MONDAY—MEAT LOAF with vegetables and home fries; and an original recipe

TUESDAY—STEW

A vegetable and meat potpourri

WEDNESDAY—THURSDAY

SPECIAL FROM THE STEAMER

CRAB LEGS

FRIDAY—TROUT

THE MOGUL RAINBOW

A large boneless trout lightly marinated

CHICKEN

Marinated boneless breast of chicken

SATURDAY—NEW YORK STEAK

Nothing changed but the price

SUNDAY—SWISS STEAK a la Josephine

Peppers, tomatoes, onions and home fries

FRIDAY—TUESDAY—

VEGETABLE PLATE

A variety of vegetables freshly steamed with your choice of butter sauce or cheese

No. 10 Mammoth Tavern Road

934-3039

Open Daily

Sat. 5:30 / Sun.-Fri. 6

Beer & wine.

Reservations
accepted.



MONO FAVORITE

Located on Mammoth Tavern Rd. directly
behind Safeway.

News Briefs continued

ic consciousness above the In-stamatic level can contact Smith at his Independence home (878-2230) or through Eastern Sierra News Service (878-2381).

"NO PLACE FOR UNIONS," SAYS BAKERY OWNER AFTER STRIKE

IT WAS ON LABOR DAY - appropriately enough - that the news of the end of the Schat's Bakery strike became public. Days before, the pickets had turned in their signs and had either gone home or back to work at other jobs. All had been fired. The strike had remained at impasse for months - ever since February when about 40 of Schat's workers walked out, urged on by the leaders of the well-funded bakers and confectioners union. The bakery employees had earlier voted in favor of turning Schat's Bakery into a union shop - a move probably prompted by Schat's entry into the mass market of the California southland. Down-south union people were plainly irked to discover the shocking (to them) absence of a union label on Schat's extensive line of breads now sold in many supermarkets. Union Agent Pete Peters said the union had spent about \$100,000 on the no-win walk-out, and Bakery Owner-partner Erick Schat boasted that the strike had not hurt his bakery one bit. Schat says the bakery business is "booming. It's the best thing that ever happened to us." Clearly no champion of organized labor, Schat, flushed with victory, said that the union "had been screwing the strikers. They just dropped the workers." In fact, the union offered many of them jobs - in L.A.

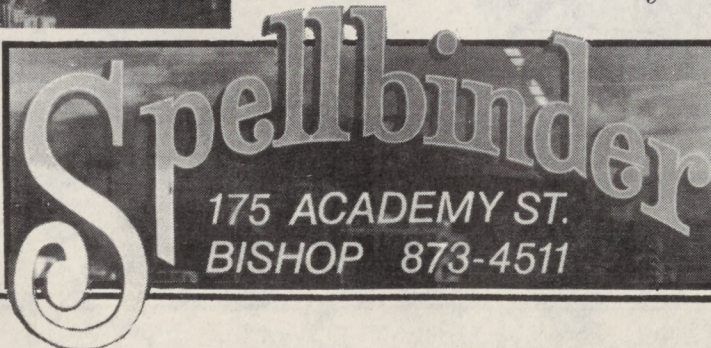
He also allowed as how the Schat family "came here (from Holland) because it's a free country. The unions ruin industries; they put people out of business. There is no place for unions in this country; they are outdated." Perhaps, but not so much so as the statement itself.

Why had the strike failed? Peters said the weak link in the strike organization rested with the workers down south where "...trucks delivered to outlets there and our union men had to receive the bread. If they had refused, it would have constituted a secondary boycott which is illegal."



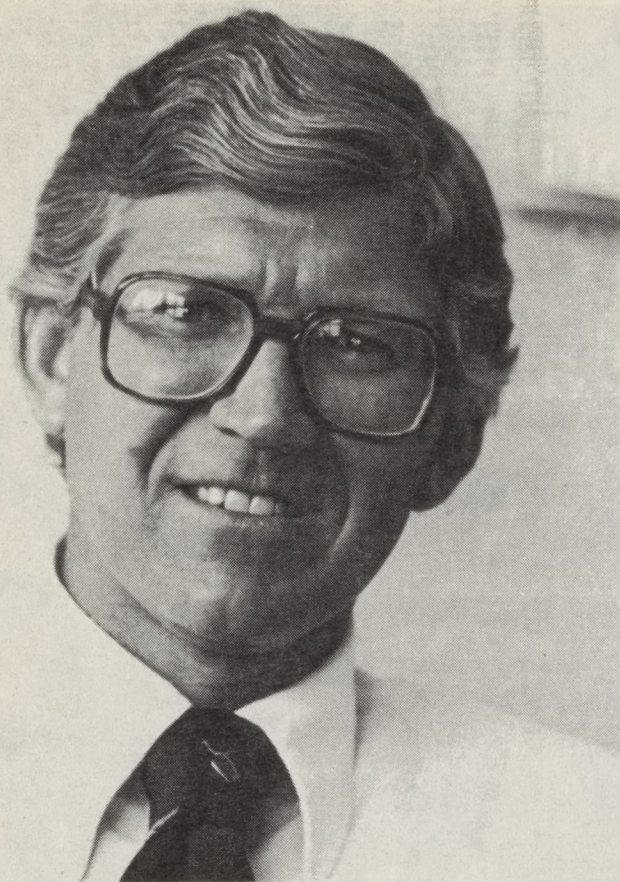
Escape...into a good book

...into a world of adventure or relaxation...of romance and travel...a world of information - and self-improvement! We have an all-new enlarged selection for both adults and children; stop in and browse...or call today.



175 ACADEMY ST.
BISHOP 873-4511

Good reading
for everyone!



"PERSONALLY, I THINK
COUNTY GOVERNMENT
IS SERIOUS BUSINESS
... or should be."

**Let's get serious by
electing responsible
leaders. Vote for**

**JOHN
GARNER**
for supervisor

• Mono District 2

Manufacturing Jeweler

Custom Wedding Rings
Ring Sizing

We Buy Jewelry



DIAMONDS
GOLD
SILVER
COINS

Jewelry Repairing
Often while you wait

873-6980

Don Leake Co.

103 North Main, Bishop

SKI-AREA-SHUTTLE

- AIRPORT SERVICE
- HOTEL PICK-UP
- TOURS

**Fast-trans to and from
anyplace in the area**

Ride in safe comfort

KAY'S TAXI

PHONE

934-2393

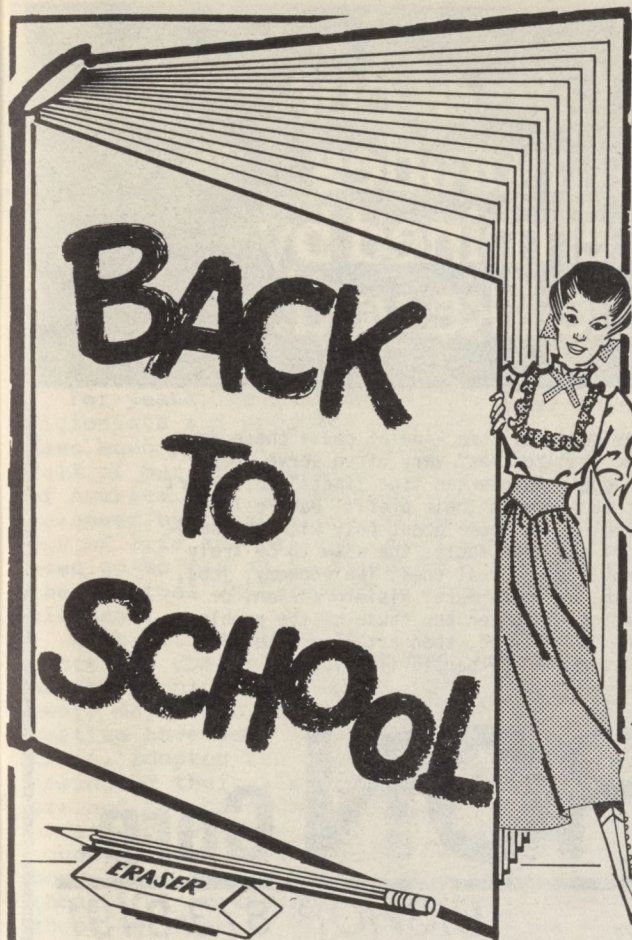
MAMMOTH
LAKES

**"How does your
garden grow?"**
(This year, not at all.)



FOTOPAGE

The "Strohmyer Sisters," Martha, 77, and Elsie, 81, stand beneath brown trees once heavy with fruit but now dying for lack of water, and they sadly reflect on a littered and leaf-strewn lot that until this year was their garden. Under DWP's outrageous metered water rates they would pay water bills of well over \$100 to water their garden and trees. They had enjoyed the garden and trees as a source of mild exercise, and to supplement a meager grocery budget. Between them they live on income of little more than \$500 a month. Ironically, it is not the first time the aging sisters have come up against DWP's heartless Owens Valley policies: Years ago, their family was forced - twice - to sell out to DWP as Los Angeles began buying up Inyo land for its water project. By abandoning the garden they manage to save only about half the water bill, now about \$50 each bill. Literally scores of elderly people in Inyo County found themselves in the same situation during the recent hot summer.



SCHOOL SUPPLIES CLOTHING

Large stock - everything you need!

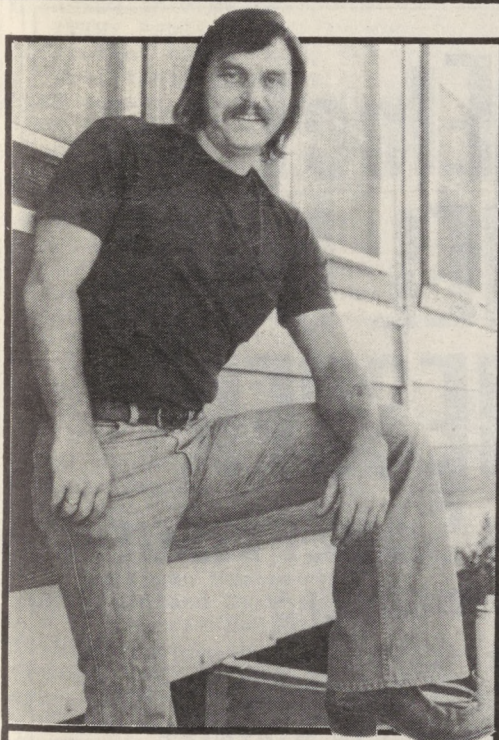
All sizes and styles for boys and girls. Make this your one-stop shopping center for almost all back-to-school needs.

For real savings, shop at...

MAIRS

MARKET

Hwy. 395 Independence

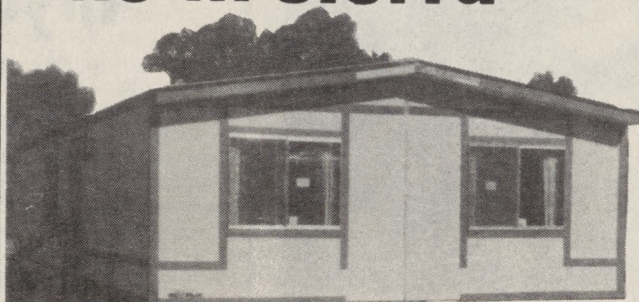


HI-SIERRA MOBILE HOME SALES

2484 N. SIERRA HWY. BISHOP 873-4810

Cool in summer Warm in winter

Mobile homes for the hi sierra



*Walk in and
start living.
We deal in
quality
mobile homes.*

OPEN 7 DAYS: WEEKDAYS 8-5, SUNDAY 10-4
LOCALLY OWNED AND OPERATED



**The fate of our
communities
is determined by
people like you.**

Nearly everybody supports some kind of cause these days, but it's easy to see that "causes" very often serve special interests - or egos. Anyone can find "facts" to support what they want to prove to their profit. But real solutions to real problems can come about only with the selfless wish to find out the real facts, the wish to be truly informed. Our problems are real ones: The economy, jobs, water, ecology, growth, and many more. Misinformation, or a lack of information, is often the cause of the problem, never its solution. Be informed, then act. The fate of our communities is determined by people like you.

Grow with us. CAL-TRON Corp.

BISHOP 873-8491



**Elect
ETHEL ROOK
MESSER**

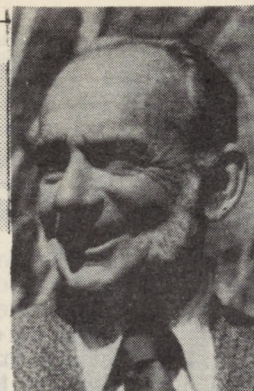
**Inyo Supervisor
DISTRICT 5**

READY, WILLING AND ABLE
TO REPRESENT THE PEOPLE OF THE
ENTIRE FIFTH DISTRICT

*"A special thanks to all who
supported me in the primary"*

View from the Right

PAUL TAKES ON THE DEMOCRATS; IF HE'S TO BE BELIEVED, THEY'RE UP TO NO GOOD AND THEY STAND GUILTY AND RESPONSIBLE FOR EVERYTHING UP TO AND INCLUDING TREASON AND PERMITTING A FOREIGN INVASION - AND THEY'RE "PLUCKING OUR FEATHERS," TOO!



Paul Payne

For years, many orthodox religionists and prophets of doom have been predicting the downfall of our great United States of America and its eventual takeover by those alien to our way of life and beliefs. Some even go so far as to prophesy the eventual enslavement of our citizens.

With both national and local elections coming up in November, which is only a few short days away, major and minor political parties have held their conventions, adopted their platforms, nominated their standard bearers and now have their campaigns under way, we, who love our country and cherish its freedoms, must give careful and thoughtful consideration to those for whom we cast our ballots. A few comments on recent news items may just put our thinking in order.

ITEM: Public Debt (Federal Government only) Heads Towards \$1 Trillion! Estimates of the 1980 census place our population at 220 million souls. What shocking news! Each U.S. citizen, man, woman and child, is burdened with a federal debt whose individual portion is \$4,600 upon which they must pay approximately \$365 a year in interest charges. Remember, it is only the individual who pays for our governmental follies whether the tax is levied against corporations, banks or insurance companies. The taxing of these entities is only a cover-up for the further fleecing of the individual. It is the individual who owns these entities.

ITEM: Foreigners Are Buying Into American Business! England's Midland Bank acquired 57% of Crocker National Bank, 14th largest bank in the United States. Foreign companies have spent \$5.6 billion to acquire U.S. oil properties. Foreigners spent \$18.4 billion in the 1st quarter of 1980 on stocks of American firms. That's up 42% over the previous quarter, an all-time high. Kuwait's government offers nearly \$1 billion for 15% of Getty Oil Company, America's 19th largest. Foreigners hold \$112 billion of

our federal debt; more than 11%.

ITEM: The Promises Democrats Made! Enact a \$12 billion anti-recession program for 800,000 jobs. Question: At whose expense? Enact a \$1 billion railroad renewal program. Question: For whose benefit and at whose expense? Make energy conservation our highest priority. Question: Who is to do without and for how long? Commit more federal funds for energy development. Question: At whose expense and for whose benefit? Oppose a constitutional amendment that would require a balanced budget. Comment: A runaway inflation program. Question: For whose benefit? The list of promises of something for every pressure group is almost endless. The only thing missing is the last Plank which should state: To provide and fulfill all of the foregoing promises and programs, we will further pluck the individual of his few remaining feathers.

Now to sum up the reasons for this discourse. The Preamble to our great Constitution states; "We the People...to Provide for the Common Defense...to Promote the General Welfare...do adopt this Constitution." During the past 50 years, with the exception of the Eisenhower and Nixon years, our government has been under control of the Democratic Party. Have they made a shambles of our great Constitution? Have they been guilty of TREASON?

Let's look at the first item discussed: The Federal Debt. Is a debt of almost \$5,000 saddled on each citizen, with annual interest payments of \$365, promoting his "general welfare"? Since when is debt a benefit? Particularly when its owed to our potential enemies.

How about the second item? Foreigners and American Business. Is not invasion into our economic and business affairs by these foreigners a failure of our federal government's responsibility to provide for our defense? If foreigners own our corporations, banks, insurance companies and oil resources, haven't we been invaded and becoming slaves to aliens and invaders who never fired a shot to subdue us? Is

not cooperation with an enemy TREASON?

The third item: Democratic Promises. Of the 20 Planks in its platform, the Democrats have not one that proposes to protect the rights of the individual. They talk about "human rights", but are not humans individuals? Nowhere does the "Party" propose to protect the rights or interests of the individual. It does promise more aid to the many pressure groups who seek to derive more and more benefits from those who work and are taxed to support them. Not one Plank proposes to protect us from the foreign invasion of our economic life which can lead only to slavery.

Local politicians who advocate the taking of grants and other "hand-outs" from our federal government are likewise contributors to the downfall of our country: Traitors all!

"We the People" are individuals, not pressure groups. If any program is good for individuals, it is good for all.

As election time approaches, we should all, individually, think on these things.

Paul

PROTECT YOURSELF AND YOUR FAMILY... KNOW THE WARNING SIGNS OF A HEART ATTACK.

American Heart Association



WE'RE FIGHTING FOR YOUR LIFE

THE JOYS OF PHONE OWNERSHIP.

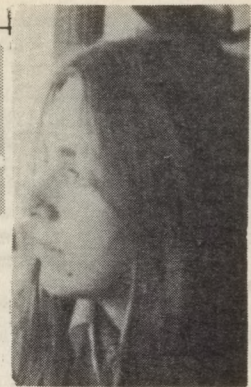
There's nothing like owning your own. No matter what it is. It's better to own it. Consider the many benefits of owning your own Continental telephone. When you purchase a telephone from us, you own the entire telephone, lock, stock and barrel, and that means reduced monthly phone bills. Then, there's also the added convenience and privacy you get from another extension. And there's no limit to the options a colorful decorator telephone can give any interior

decorator. As a gift, there's a lot to be said for giving the perfect receiver...a telephone from Continental. It's something someone will always use, because no matter where you move—you can take your phone with you. So stop by your local phone fair or business office today. And experience the joys only ownership can bring.

Continental Telephone Corporation 



Notes from B.K.



Benett Kessler

B.K.'S DANDER IS UP: HERE'S HER REPORT ON A PATHETIC INCIDENT IN A SUPERMARKET; HER RECOLLECTION OF A VISIT TO THE ZOO - AND WHAT PROMPTED IT; AND SOME FAR-OUT SPECULATION ON POSSIBLE LAST RITE ARRANGEMENTS FOR DWP'S LILY-WHITE WASPS. ALSO A LOOK AT BRIDGEPORT'S "SUGAR RAY" JOKE, AND SOME REMARKS ON THE BUDGET.

TRUE SUPER MARKET STORY: Sad scene in August: Two elderly Inyo women at Bishop far too proud to accept handouts from the bureaucrats, very quietly and agonizingly discussing how they'll spend the *two dollars* they had between them *on food for a whole week*. They and their families worked all their lives to "provide for the future" and perhaps a few years of retirement rest. They and their kind were the "productive Americans" who survived the Great Depression, won two wars, and somehow saw to it that the present generation was housed, fed, clothed and educated. And now, a camera cut to 11:30 a.m. and we see some young pup in his 30's or 40's seated in suit and tie behind a DWP desk calculating how he's going to charge them more for water and electricity before he goes out to swill down an expense account lunch with a politician.

DWP "PUBLIC HEARINGS": Even the L.A. officials are bored with the farcical technical rituals they must go through to rip us off. If they want more money, if they want more water, if they want water meters, they hold "hearings." There nowhere exists any record of a DWP hearing for "public input" in which DWP altered by any degree any program the bosses wished to thrust upon us. So now we will enjoy a further increase in power rates. Thanks, you nincompoops. Well; we just couldn't restrain ourselves from publishing the picture here; Note the facial expressions: Easy

to see just how really very interested anyone is in what Owens Valley people have to say. I've seen similar bored expressions in the San Diego zoo monkey cage just after feeding time - when the inmates are ready for a nap. (Yawn!)

ENJOY YOUR STEAK AND LOBSTER, Louie, Paul, Duane and all of your self indulgent toadies. Oh, and by all means, fight the electrical workers union down to the last penny; if your employees were paid the money they need to live, you might have to cut your own obscenely large salaries and expense accounts by a few paltry cents.

WE HEAR THERE'S AN EMBALMER on the water and power commission. As things are going now that august body of imbeciles may need him. Even in our "civilized" times, hanging rope, shotgun and dynamite are still considered by many to be viable alternatives to frustration. On second thought, the DWP commissioners would pale at the thought of contracting with the commission prez for their last rites. They are typically of the acceptable White-Anglo-Saxon-Protestant - WASP - persuasion, ardently Organization-Man-Lily-White, and we wonder if they'd do business, even *final* business, with a guy named Ricardo Gutierrez and the mortuaries he's involved with: Guerra and Gutierrez Mortuary, Inc.; Gutierrez and Weber

Continued next page



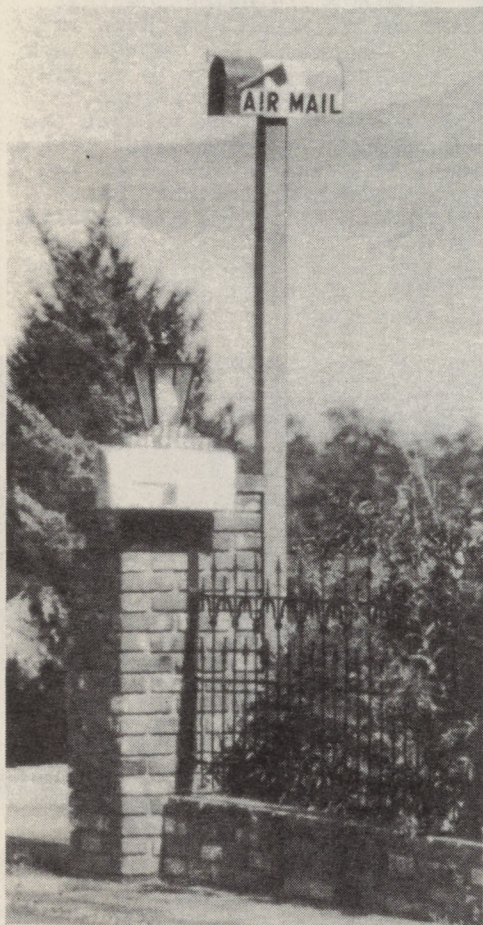
DWP officials at another "public hearing"
Memories of "similar bored expressions" on a San Diego visit

Photo: Benett Kessler

Mortuary, Inc.; and Wah-Wing-Fang Funeral Corporation. If you ask me, the W&P commissioners are more the Forest Lawn organ music and cement statuary type. At this early point in their evolution they have yet to discover that a gray or brown DWP goose is no less silly than a white one. Wah-Wing-Fang, indeed. Can't you just imagine one of *these* allowing himself to be shipped to his final resting place to the clang of a Chinese gong? - or to the accompaniment of a dirge played by Mariachis?

INFLATION IS DEVASTATING for the elderly people. Food, housing and utility costs are hurting them - physically. The senior organization, AARP, releases information on the lives of older people, and AARP's latest unhappy news comes from local president, Don Yeager: He says at least 60% of the seniors who take part in the state-funded lunch program have very little else to eat. Yeager says he thinks the figures hold true, county-wide. We've just about priced our retired people out of health and home. And now they can't even plant a garden to help ease the grocery bills. They can't afford water.

SO DO YOU REALLY GET any deliveries in that "Air" mail box? we wanted to know. And Ms. Betty Perry fired right back: "No, the mailman said he hasn't got a ladder yet." But then, that towering "Air" mail box on Bishop's Longview Street was only a joke anyhow. Betty allows as how she



VPPs' mail boxes on Bishop's Longview Street

and her husband, Chuck, play a running joke contest with her sister and brother-in-law, Jim and Gloria Noble, and each year they attempt to out-do each other. Once when they returned from a trip to the southland they found the tall mailbox - which of course caught our cameraman's eye. Add Chuck and Betty - and their in-laws - to our VPP list.

WEEKDAY MORNING DRIVE TO BISHOP: One, two, three...five or six? county cars heading south *carrying one person*. Okay, in good times why not offer the county's department heads all the perks they'd like. But these are *not* good times (See our story on budget cuts), and we can't afford the gasoline for them to indulge themselves. They can double up, form car pools - and even give a ride to other county employees who (poor peons) can't drive to work at county expense. Why do so many department heads have to live at Bishop or Big Pine anyhow? If they want to commute, let 'em use their own gas and wear out their own cars. Exceptions: Those whose jobs make them more-or-less "on call" 24 hours a day, like the district attorney, sheriff, etc. And, too, if the department heads provided rides for other employees it might make for better interoffice communication. Best bet: The county could provide a bus service.

GOVERNMENT-BY-COMMITTEE: That's what Mono's got. The issue of hiring a county administrator remains a warm one, but finds little support from supervisors who prefer to keep power in their own hands. Best bet: A county administrator whose powers are plainly limited.

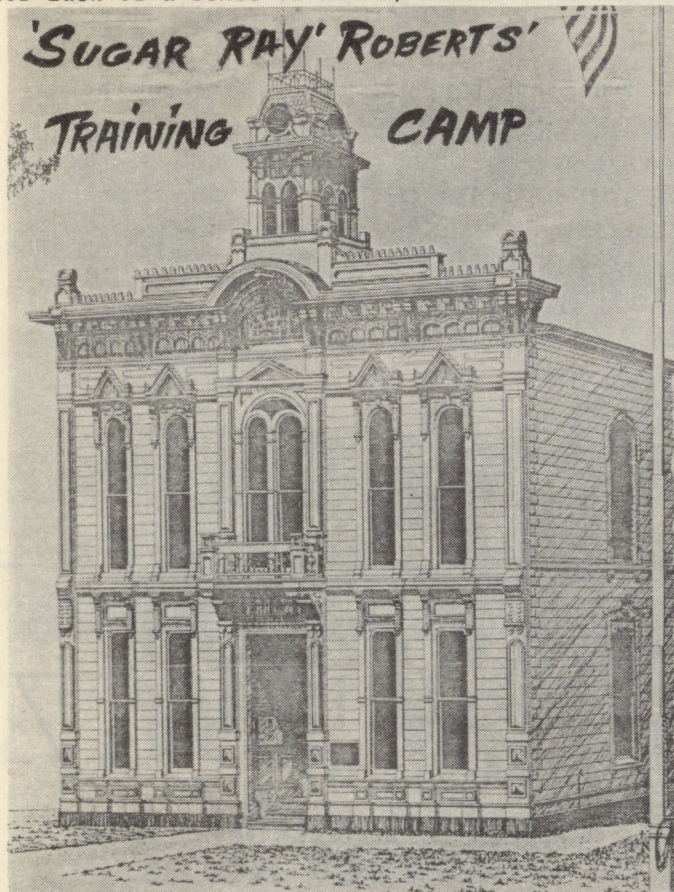
COUNTY EMPLOYEE MORALE has taken yet another dive in both Inyo and Mono. Seems the supervisors of both counties wait until 10 minutes before budget time to announce - while shedding buckets of crocodile tears - that there will have to be "layoffs." Some say that the policy is one they use to set a political scare atmosphere in which the county bosses have a better position when it comes to arguing wage increases for county workers. There may be something to the claim.

VERY PLEASANT PEOPLE DEPARTMENT: She is Mary Aseltine of Independence, good friend of the senior citizens. An employee of the county health department. Mary visits, on her own time, the seniors who take part in the lunch program, and she takes blood pressures and keeps an eye on them. It is so very nice to hear stories about people who do good without being "do-gooders." Mary's name was suggested as a VPP by some of those who love her dearly - and thank her. And we're delighted to add our own best wishes and thanks.

HEY, NOW, JUST A BIG MINUTE there Wally! Our Man in Mono, Wally Charleston - who usually tells it like it is - has got himself out on a limb this time (Page 12 or 13). Flatly states that Hanson will win the Mono supervisor contest. We're not so sure about that; had a talk with Garner the other day and discovered that he makes a good pitch and presents an intelligent approach to government - for those who will listen. We discovered elsewhere that a number of the Hanson supporters are quietly falling off the bandwagon every day. Although the electorate has become cynical in recent years they still like their politicians to show a whistle-clean record with no conflicts of interests or even the appearance of such. But Garner's not even bothering to run on that tired issue; he's got a sound statement of his own. Our own sidewalk surveys show Garner definitely in the lead. So...I guess we'll just have to bet Wally a dinner at the Mogul, or maybe Normandy Inn. Okay?

SOME TIME BACK, the Schat family opened up its plush new restaurant and bakery on Bishop's Main Street. It is indeed an elaborate and attractive structure, and some local folk have given it a name that is making the rounds - The Schat Mahal.

ASKED IF HE WOULD CARE to comment on his recent arrest, Judge Roberts said, "I have kept a very low profile and I decline any comment at this particular time." He was arrested in the Bay area for allegedly taking a swing at an officer. Then we told the Judge about a local joke, contrived like a cartoon, circulating in the Bridgeport area. We reproduce it here. He laughed and said, "that's the West. It's good humor. I haven't seen it. Now they're at least attributing virility to me, and in the election some questioned if I would live at all. People have the right to see the lighter side. And if you can't take it, you shouldn't be a judge." Judge Roberts is in his 60's, hardly the age to become a prime boxer, but no one could fault him for lack of a sense of humor, not in this case.



Picture of courthouse with inscription
"Taking it" with a judicial sense of humor

LATEST NEWS ON THE NEWS: Since he rose from newsman and ad salesman to the managership of Bishop's KIOQ-FM (We presume that really is a promotion), Bob Wellman has centered a lot of effort on "the news." First, he replaced himself with Sandy Harrison in the "local" news spot and soon raised the ante paid to this news service (to increase Southern Inyo and critical courthouse coverage), then sought out a national radio news service, United Press International. The growing audience (and subsequent advertising returns) began to pay off. He increased the station output, reaching into Nevada on the east, Little Lake on the south, and far into Mono County. And he got hold of a top-notch weatherman who has a sometimes irritating, but always entertaining, capacity for dwelling on things "falling out of the air from a clear, blue sky," etc. The revenues further increased with the expanding audience, but still Wellman wasn't happy;

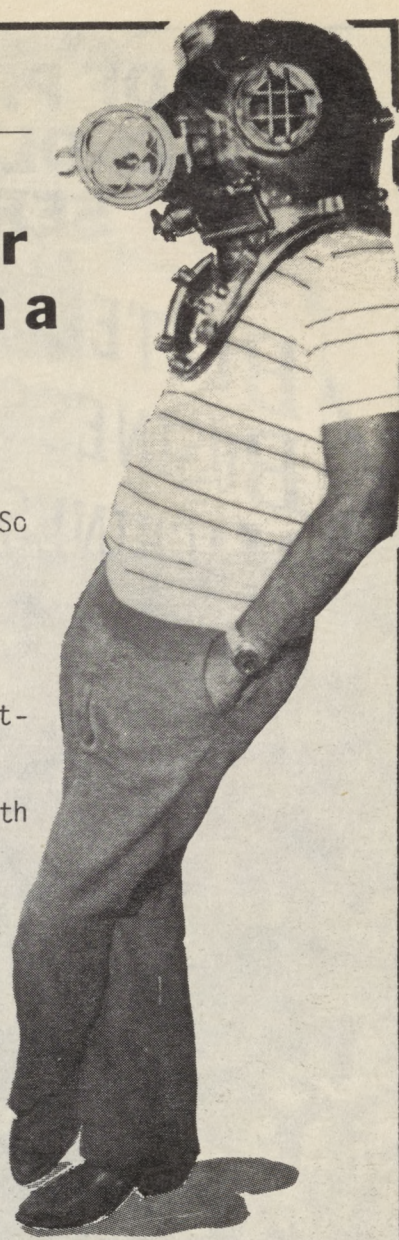
Continued next page

Casual wear for
the Owens Valley?

Keep your cool with a diver's helmet.

Alright already! So the valley has no ocean! No matter that our waters are decreasing, you can still maintain your nautical image and keep your psychological cool - with our genuine brass diver's helmet, only

\$799⁰⁰



The Very Casual model shown here is KIOQ-FM's John Levin, but unlike Levin you don't actually need to wear it: Set it in a corner (Stand included) of your bar or fun room as a conversation piece (As Levin discovered, conversation is easier with the faceplate left open). You'll find our helmet and lots of other decorative brass in our well-stocked art and gift shop.

EMBARCADERO

ARLINE GRAY

IMPORTS, BRASS / FASHIONS: SLEEK LOOKS
FOR LARGE SIZES / FOR A TREAT IN SHOPPING DO COME
IN AND SEE / BROWSE AROUND OUR SPACIOUS SHOW
ROOM, SUITE R, SEVEN-EIGHT-SEVEN NORTH MAIN,
COTTONWOOD PLAZA, BISHOP

SIGN OF PROMPT, FRIENDLY SERVICE

BETTER
BUSINESS
MACHINES

....AND
MUCH
MORE!



Neat little house
on a Bishop side
street. Fence and flow-
ers. Friendly folks in-
side, people interested in
your business, your needs. Personal service.
Also inside: the expertise to deal with
sophisticated business machines - all kinds.

SALES SERVICE SATISFACTION

BETTER BUSINESS MACHINES

462 WEST CHURCH PHONE 873-4040 BISHOP

no real coverage of state events. Now, he's taken care of that to form what is definitely a news presentation with a big-market sound. No longer any question about who's Number One? Latest addition: The Norm Woodruff news team with its coverage of state news, stock market report, and sports: The team: Woodruff, Jack Hayes and John Minelli, reporting from Sacramento and San Francisco. And Wellman has put the station on a 24-hour broadcast basis. The news sponsors dig it as a good investment even at \$7.65 for a 30-second spot announcement, an unheard-of price for radio in Inyo. And, oh yes, I'm on there, too - somewhere.

LOOK FOR AN INYO-MONO ARTICLE in an upcoming issue of *New West* magazine. Staff writer Tom DeVries has been prowling around the area again, this time with a reporter-eye on what he considers an appalling ecological situation with DWP. DeVries' poison pen has already produced a *New West* expose on the Peripheral Canal and the Metropolitan Water District.

AND KNXT's MAN JIM MITCHELL who blew into town chasing down the story reported elsewhere in these pages, vows he'll also come back for a "water story." Jim got interested in Owens Valley back when he was an award-winning reporter on L.A.'s KFWB. His scoop coverage of the Hillside murders and its subsequent awards, vaulted him to a top spot on Channel 2 television's "investigative" team.

AND MAY THE NEWS in your day be good news every day,

Sincerely,

BK

WALK PROUD

...on a new floor
from Modern!

CARPET • LINOLEUM • TILE
HARDWOOD FLOORS

COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL REMODELING
Tonopah, Mono County, Southern Inyo

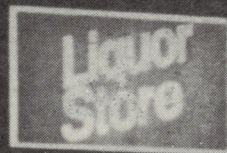


Modern Floors

Hoover Vacuums
Sales, Service

1240 N. MAIN, BISHOP
873-5406

JUST FOR YOU...



...WE MOONLIGHT A LOT

You've heard about us on radio, read about us in the papers, seen us on television - The AM-PM Markets. We're one of those, right here in Lone Pine, for your convenience. And when we say convenience, we really mean it. Like being open 24 hours a day, and carrying a full line of grocery items you may want at any time. You don't have to accommodate yourself to our hours, we're here to accommodate yours, all day, all night. Stop in and see what Al's AM-PM market can do for you -and for your pocketbook, too; look over our advertised specials every week!

Liquor ♦ Beer ♦ Wine ♦ Fishing supplies ♦ Camping fuel ♦ Ice
♦ Complete line of groceries

**DUBIE'S
Inc.**

380 N. Main

Lone Pine

am pm mini market



AMERICAN ENTERPRISE BUILT IT ALL

Free people working hard accomplished a 204-year miracle. They built it all. But now, some people have lost faith in the miracle, in a system that works! We need to restore that faith - and go back to working for the future. Never doubt it a minute, we can accomplish many more miracles.

h HUBBARD
ENTERPRISES
INCORPORATED

GENERAL CONTRACTORS

R. RT-1 NO. BARLOW LANE
873-7141

eastern sierra
news service

P. O. Box 275 • 531
(714) 878-2582 • 878-2381
Independence, CA 93526

US POSTAGE PAID
BULK RATE
Independence, Cal.
Permit #6
93526

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED